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THE WRIGHT COUNTY EAGLE.

VOL. IX.---NO. 23. DELANO, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1881. WHOLE NO. 439.

1880

D. R. FARNHAM'S HISTORY OF WRIGHT COUNTY ILLUSTRATED

e publish to-day a graphic account e massacre of the Dustin family before in such detail given to the ic, from the pen of a well known tleman of this county who speaks n personal knowledge of the facts re- d from the mortally wounded Mrs. in before she died, and from well n parties who were first on the d after the occurrence of the tragic ir. Our correspondent's information he subsequent movements of the In- s has been ascertained in his capa- as state scout in that and other ities in the Indian troubles at that and, we believe, can be relied on as ect. His account of the tragic af- shows that those who got up the tion to the Legislature for an appro- ion to erect a monument as pub- d in the EAGLE, copied from the *cate*, were either very careless or comparatively little about the af- and have probably not consulted the relatives and friends of the dered family, who must be familiar the facts, as the petition was or is everal respects incorrect. If the is to do anything in the matter it d certainly be of importance to have case correctly stated and brought ore the Legislature.

The Dustin Monument.

speaking of the proposed Dustin ly monument the *Advocate* of last k says, "that the proposal of the GLE to place the monument where disaster occurred finds no favor with people." In this connection it may roper to ask our truthful neighbor her he has consulted the people of ght county or only his immediate roundings? And we wish further to e that the suggestion to erect the osed monument at the scene of the sacre is not alone ours, it was first osed by other citizens of the county. his our neighbor would doubtless onvinced if he consulted some of people of Cokato, Smith Lake, erly, Rockford, Buffalo and other s in the county. The place where disaster occurred is yet well known, elieve on the land of Jacob McCalla, ection 32, town of Middleville, and it uld only a rod or two from the line of land, and a tree marked with the of the occurrence, etc., but now fal- to the ground, marks the spot. The is not likely soon to be in the mid- of a corn or potato patch as our ghbor claims. And further, we are sufficient ground would be donated ould easily be procured, and the ument would be in full view of the oad and could be seen from every ing train for quite a distance up and n the road. It is also claimed that the atives of the murdered persons do not ire their removal from the place re they are now buried. If these facts, which we doubt not, would it be more appropriate to erect a ument, at State expense, at the ne or very spot of the massacre than some local cemetery that is not in any connected with the event or occur-

How would at Brook- would the say if Con- e an appro- ation for a Gettysburg monument to ment one of the city parks in Phila- hia or Baltimore?

e would again state, It is not feeling or against any particular place that speak not against have shown ship, but as erecting a to ornament as to com- stances and The place as urrence is of county, and light, we be- will look at e do not as own views as ion.

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1 BOOK

The Massacre of the Dustin Family.

EDITOR EAGLE:—I notice in your issue of the 3rd inst. a copy of a petition to the Legislature to erect a monument to the members of the Dustin family who were murdered by the Indians in the summer of 1863. The petition fails to recite the facts in the case, and is incorrect in several particulars.

The Dustin family consisted of Amos Dustin, his wife, three children, one a girl of about seven years, two boys, the oldest four or five, the youngest two years of age, and an old lady, the widowed mother of Mr. Dustin.

I find by reference to an old diary kept by me in 1863, that the date of the massacre was Monday, the 29th day of June, 1863. Mr. Dustin, his mother and the oldest boy were killed at the time, and Mrs. Dustin (the wife) mortally wounded, so that she died on the 3rd of July, four days after. I saw Mrs. Dustin two days before she died at the house of Aaron Cochran Esq., and the account of the tragedy was derived from her, other particulars from Mr. Cochran at the time.

Mr. Cochran stated that they passed [illegible] and remaining in the wound, she fell forward, and the Indians probably thinking her dead left. After they were gone Mrs. Dustin took her two remaining children and started back, but her strength failing, she stopped near the [illegible] several other members and relatives of the family are buried. He says the living relatives of the family are not willing that the remains be removed to Howard, and if a monument is to be erected that it should be at the scene of the massacre, or if that is not practicable, where they are now buried.—ED.]

THE HISTORY OF WRIGHT COUNTY.

[BY THE SECRETARY OF THE OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION.]

[*Continued from last week.*]

VII.

The hanging of Jackson by a mob, after he had an impartial trial, created quite a sensation throughout the State. The press very generally condemned the act, and all lovers of law and order were anxious that the lynchers should be brought to justice. And on the second day of May the Governor of the State, Hon. H. H. Sibley, by proclamation offered a reward of five hundred dollars for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who participated in the hanging of Oscar F. Jackson on the 25th day of April 1859, at Rockford, Wright county, Minnesota. Thus matters rested until the 26th day of July 1859. At this time there was a celebration at Minnehaha Falls by the Sons of Malta, and as it was a very grand affair, many of the citizens of St. Paul and Minneapolis were present, and Aymer W. Moore, who was supposed to be one of the lynchers, was present. One of the Holdship boys, a brother of Mrs. Jackson, was also there, and when he saw Moore he returned to St. Paul immediately, and informed his sister, who went before a notary public and made the following complaint:

STATE OF MINNESOTA, } ss.
County of Ramsey. }

Elizabeth Jackson being duly sworn doth say and complain, that on the 25th day of April A. D. 1859, in the county of Wright, in said State of Minnesota, Aymer W. Moore, of said county of Wright, without the authority of law and with malice aforethought, killed Oscar F. Jackson by hanging the said Jackson by the neck until the said Jackson was dead. [illegible]

cork, started in squads of two and three for Monticello on different routes, agreeing to all meet together at a certain point not far from Monticello, just after dark. Just after nine o'clock that night a rap was heard at the door of the Blanchard mansion, the door was open- [illegible] and in an instant the house was full [illegible] men. Moore was found, the [illegible] was ordered to keep quiet [illegible] trouble. Moore was [illegible] guard was kept [illegible] for about an [illegible] Of course [illegible] and cry, [illegible] them [illegible] Mon- [illegible] in [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] had [illegible] quited [illegible] sequent- [illegible] alleged [illegible] the civil [illegible] spirit of ruffianism [illegible] majesty of the [illegible] itself by overt acts, [illegible] will be taken.

[illegible] Sibley, Governor of the [illegible] of Minnesota, in view of the fact that the civil officers of Wright county are perfectly powerless to enfore and execute the laws, do hereby declare the said county of Wright in a state of insurrection, and I enjoin upon all the good citizens of that and adjoining counties, that they lend their aid to suppress violence and disorder, and solomnly warn the actors in these outrages in Wright county, that any further attempts on their part to obstruct or resist the course of public justice will bring incvitable ruin on their own heads and may be desolation and misery on their families.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the State to be affixed this [SEAL.] fifth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, and of the State the second.

By the Governor: HENRY H. SIBLEY.
FRANCIS BAASSEN,
Secretary of State.

That same day the Pioneer Guards, Capt. Western, by order of the commander-in-chief, started for Wright county by way of Anoka. The St. Paul papers of that day speak in great praise of Captain Western and his men, of the alacrity with which they got ready and started for the scenes of the late outrages in Wright county. They numbered 42 men, rank and file, and were dressed in regulation army uniforms, armed with U. S. muskets, and all carried revolvers besides. They went in large army wagons furnished by the quarter-master general. The next day, August 6th, the Stillwater Guards, Captain Loomis, followed the Pioneer Guards, 45 men, the same equipments, uniforms, and army wagons. The same day the City Guards, 40 men, Captain O'Gorman, uniforms, black pants and blue flannel shirts, armed and equipped like the others. A St. Paul paper of that day says "they are a hardy set of boys and went off in high spirits." The whole under the command of Lieut. Col. John S. Prince, Col. Francis Baassen, acting adjutant general, with assistants, Messrs. Simpson and Hunt. The adjutant general issued orders to the following companies to move to the scene of action at a minute's notice:

Co. "D," 25th Regt., Capt. Crooks.
Co. "A" 13th Regt., Capt. French.

izens of Rockford and Buffalo, but whether they were the real ones they were after is not known. Twenty-three persons in all were under charge of constables and special police in Monticello, but the soldiers did nothing, in fact there was nothing for them to do. The St. Paul police force reached Monticello without any mishaps and the whole force enjoyed themselves and had a good time generally. Occasionally they picked up some traveler and if he had ever been in Rockford or Buffalo he was held as a a rebel. After the first excitement was over the county officers and other prominent men got together and held a conference with the state officers, both civil and military. Meanwhile the lynchers and rescuers were scattered all over the county or in the timber portion. One spent a week under a hay stack, another was hid in a corn field, another in a tamarack swamp, another in a cellar or a deserted cabin and a number of them took refuge on an island in Lake Beebe, in the southwest part of Frankfort, and their friends were feeding them and watching closely the soldiers and police. Hardly one of the culprits could be found, and as there was no show of resistance, the state officers began to talk of a settlement. The county officers and other citizens having promised that the offenders should be arrested and punished and as a proof of what they would, or could do, they agreed to arrest and deliver up to public justice three of the supposed offenders, if the military force would leave the county. This having been acceded to by the state authorities the sheriff went out into the timber and told them or a part of them, of the arrangements, and the persons named in the agreement, Aymer W. Moore, Hiram S. Angell and J. E. Jenks, went with with him to Monticello under arrest. At the justice court they waived examination and were held for appearance at the October term of the district court. Their bonds were fixed at $500 each, which was easily obtained, and they were set at liberty and the war was at an end.

The St. Paul *Pioneer and Democrat* of August 12th, 1859, says, "that the three companies of troops who were sent to Wright county on the 6th inst. by order of the Governor to enforce the laws, returned yesterday. The county authorities having stipulated that the laws in the future shall be observed, and having protested their ability to enforce the laws without the aid of the military." So the whole Wright county war lasted but five days. The troops were under arms and under pay not more than ten days at most. But if there had been less force there might have been a longer war. It might have been expected by some that the records would show a real war with the marching and counter marching of the armed forces, the charges and retreats, the bloody battles, the capture of the rebels. But there is simply nothing, only like the short history of another bloodless war where it is said:

"The king of France with forty thousand men
Marched up the hill and then marched down again."

At the October term of the district court, 4th judicial district, held at Monticello, Oct. 2, 1859, the grand jury received the usual charge from the judge. But they did not find that the laws had been broken or any outrages had been committed in Wright county; all had been peace, there was nothing to be looked after. Two of the county officers were anxious that the grand jury should adjourn as soon as possible and have the thing settled, and on the morning of the 4th of October they adjourned. Whether any one appeared before them is not known. But with the menace of prominent officials that it would not be safe for any of the friends of Jackson to show themselves in the county, probably no one appeared before the grand jury during the one day that they were in session. The names of the grand jurors were as follows:

A. C. Riggs, foreman.
L. C. Pickens, M. A. Taylor, J. W. Kirk, C. S. Boyd, Samuel Houlton, F. Heyetter, W. H. Helm, Joseph Perkins.

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Farnham, D. R. (Daniel Ross), 1824-1903.
D. R. Farnham's history of Wright County.
1976]

PREFACE

The lives of a people are the history of a land. In "Farnham's History of Wright County" he has set down the earliest and the most accurate account he could of our early days. These facts gleaned from the written records of church, school and and pioneer newspapers, from the accounts of daily living handed down from the eldest to the youngest make a mobile pattern of life developing - a heritage of Wright County for Mr. Farnham.

Wright County Historian Marion Jameson calls this book a Wright County history and so it truly is. Mouraine Myers of the Historian's office caught the spirit of the pioneers in her selection of the best historical pictures of Wright County to illustrate the text.

The "History" will show the reader an idealistic settler, courageous and hardy, by thrift and hard work able to literally build a life starting only with the land and overcoming famine, insects and ignorance, emerging into a people who can best be remembered in a book such as "Farnham s History of Wright County."

D. R. Farnham was the long-time secretary of the Old Settlers' Association. He wrote his history first as a series of articles in the Wright County Eagle, the second newspaper established in Wright County in 1872, and continued it in the Delano Eagle through 1883. The text is left in the original form and structure as written by Mr. Farnham. The flavor of the early days in Wright County is retained in the writer s sometimes free-swinging style.

George A. DuToit
Editor - The Delano Eagle

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INTRODUCTION

The most accurate history is written as it is happening. The more time that elapses between the events to be chronicled and the chronicle itself, the less accurate the facts and the more difficult it is to interpret those facts in the right light. This is why the following history of Wright County is so valuable. It was written only twenty-five years after the founding of the County and less than twenty years after the Indian Uprising and the Civil War. It is made more valuable by the fact that it was published in weekly installments in a well-read County newspaper, the Wright County Eagle (later the Delano Eagle), and comments and corrections were invited and printed in the paper.

This printed history was credited to the "Secretary of the Old Settlers' Association". Nowhere in the newspaper did a name appear. Tradition has it that the history is the work of Daniel Ross Farnham who arrived in Rockford in 1856. The records of the Old Settlers' Association agree that he was indeed the secretary of the organization in 1880 through 1883 when the history was published. His descendants also agree that the work was his.

To give him credit at last, we are calling our reprinting of this series of articles "Farnham's History of Wright County", and we have illustrated it as much as possible with pictures from that time. We have inserted the letters of comment and correction written by men mentioned in the history after the article with which they deal and, when necessary, added the Author's comments on those corrections. Any further information on the history added in the paper has also been included.

We have also left as originally printed, the punctuation and spelling and the sentence form. The flavor of the work is pure Farnham. We have also left it incomplete. In our researching through the pages of the Eagle, we have discovered that the last four alphabetical townships - South Side, Stockholm, Victor and Woodland - were never included. The history ends with a note that it will be continued at

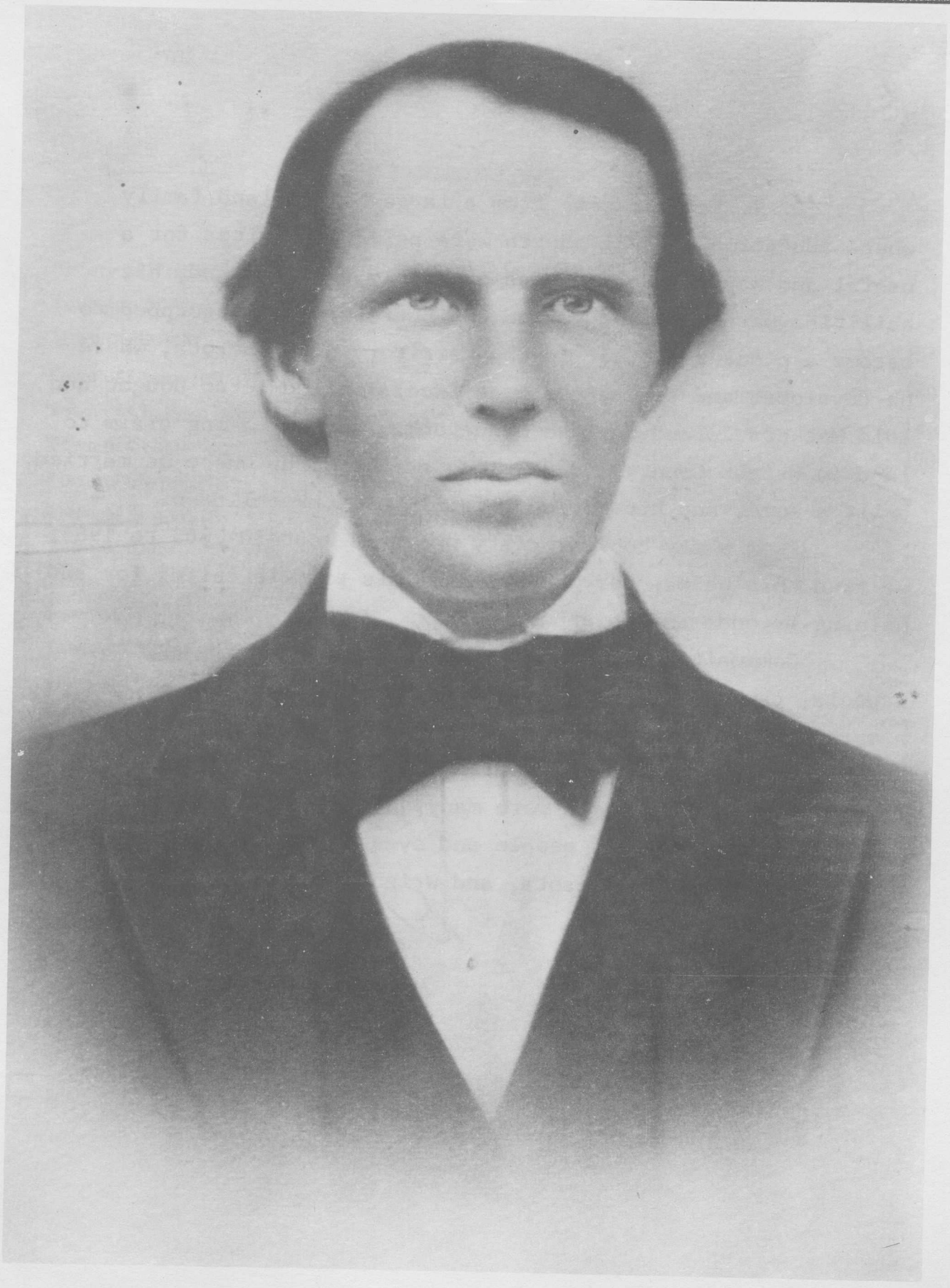
a later time but in fact never was. No explanation for this was printed. We offer you the Farnham History of Wright County exactly as published by Ignatius Gutzwiller Jr. in the 1880's.

We want to thank George DuToit for allowing us to publish this history and offer it for sale to the public. His conscientious care of the old Eagle record books makes this possible and we feel the whole County should be grateful to him for helping to preserve this important work.

To the people of Wright County we offer "Farnham's History of Wright County" and we, too, invite comments and corrections for the further enlightenment of coming generations.

Marion Jameson

Marion Jameson
WRIGHT COUNTY HISTORIAN



Daniel Ross Farnham - April 24, 1824 - September 19, 1903. Mr. Farnham was for many years Secretary of the Old Settlers Association.

D. R. Farnham came from a large New England family where aducation and the church were prime requisites for a useful and happy life. He was extremely self reliant, his abilities were many and varied and therefore well equipped to become a pioneer settler in the territory of Minnesota, where he developed and sold a claim at Excelsior and later bought and sold Meekers Island in Lake Minnetonka, before taking claim to land in Wright County and settling at Rockford, where he married, built a home, and brought up a family of four children.

From a day book or diary which he kept in 1863 to 1965, we find that he was very generous of his time in caring for and helping friends and neighbors.

Community betterment and development, as regards to schools, churches, and associations were ever of concern to him, and he was very active in developing them.

Having arrived which Minnesota was yet a territory, his friends and acquaintences were many, and his writings were first hand knowledge of people and events that took place in the development of Minnesota, and Wright County.

D.R. Farnham

Daniel R. Farnham
Grandson of D.R. Farnham

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THE HISTORY OF WRIGHT COUNTY

As mentioned heretofore, we shall in the first week of January, 1881, commence to publish a history of Wright County, in the Eagle, about two columns a week.

The history will comprise the earliest records of the County; the treaties with the Sioux and Winnebago Indians; the geography and topography of the county; the very first settlements by white men, with something of a history of each. The Legislative acts organizing the county; the political history of the county, with all important events up to 1881; the names and terms of office of all the county officers and their acts to the present terms, with the general proceedings of the boards of county commissioners. The names of the soldiers in the war of the Rebellion; also a short history of Co. "E" of the 8th Reg. Minn. Vol. The Indian war, the grasshopper ravages and many other matters.

A history of each town in the county; a description of the town, lakes, rivers, creeks, roads, public buildings; the date of organization and list of town officers at organization of town, the first settlers and a short sketch of each; first marriage, birth and death, school and teachers, first school house, church or other public institutions, cemetaries, societies of any and all kinds, roads bridges and other public improvements. The census of 1860, 1870, 1880 of each town. The number of acres under cultivation, the crops raised, cattle, hogs, sheep, fruit and fruit trees, and many other facts pertaining to agriculture and horticulture. The accidents, and crimes committed in each town, with all records of the courts in criminal cases. A full description of the works of the "Mound Builders," Indian forts; forts built during the Indian war of 1862 and 1863; Indian outrages and murders. A full description of all business in the villages, with the history of each firm or company; all mills and manufacturing establishments, with the date of the settlement and incorporation of each village, and the general history of the same. The history of the several newspapers in the county.

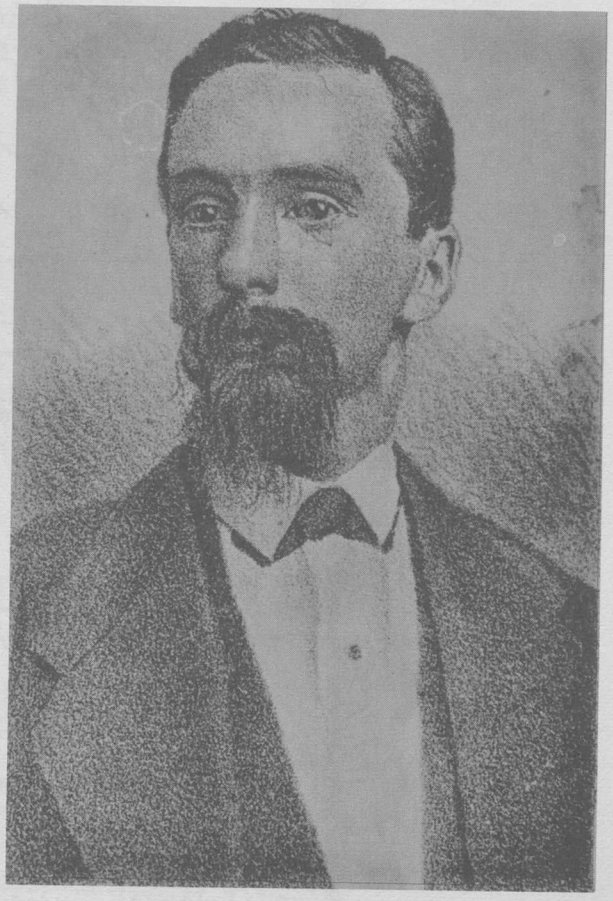
All history should be only facts, but very much of the unwritten, unrecorded history is gathered from the oldest settlers and is only their individual view of events in the earliest settlements of the county. But

making due allowance for errors of judgement, we shall endeavor to present to the public nothing but facts. We shall not in any case present our own individual opinions, but shall strive to present only the history of Wright County, the twenty towns and twelve villages.

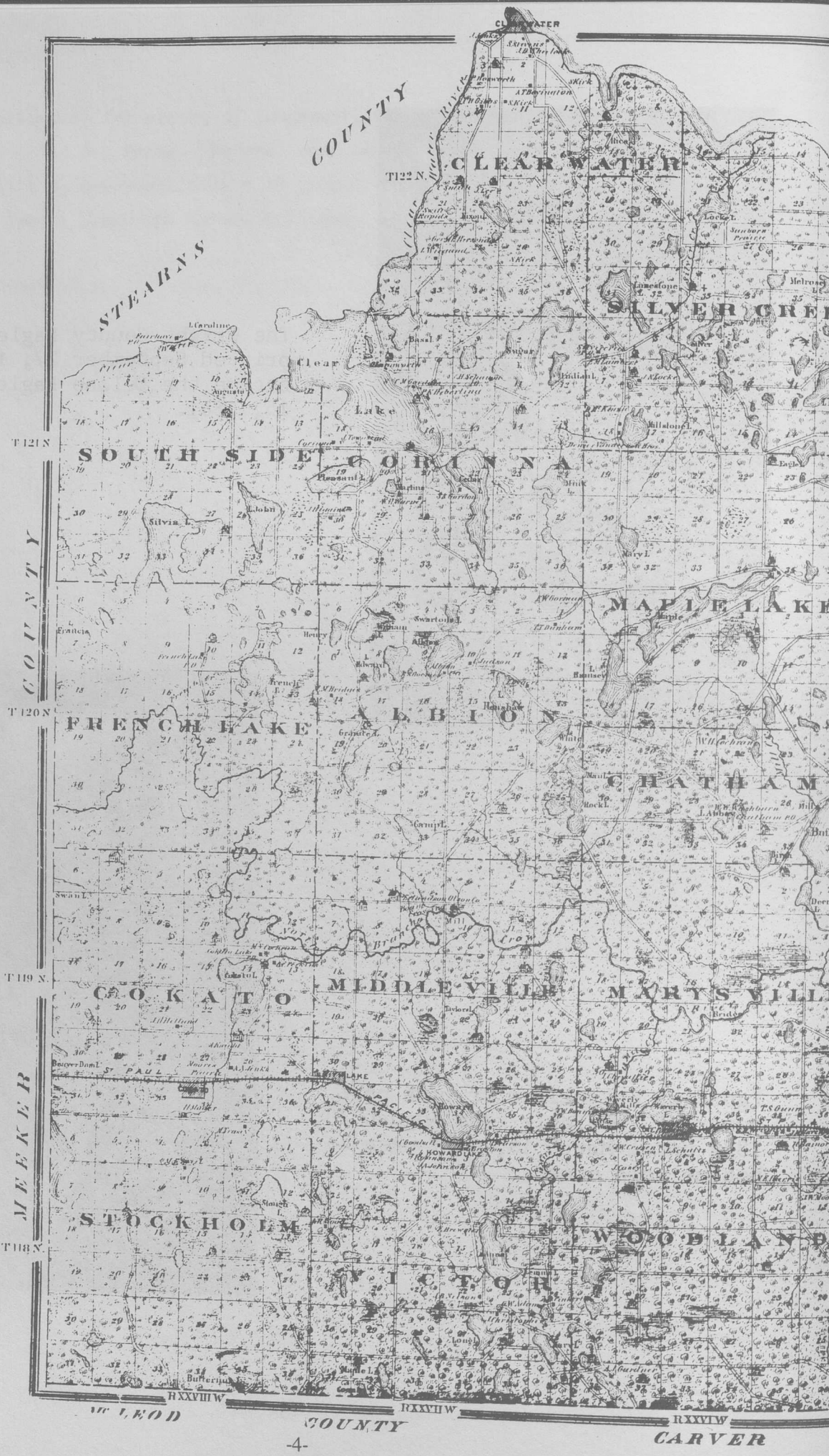
The Wright County Eagle for Dec. 23, 1880

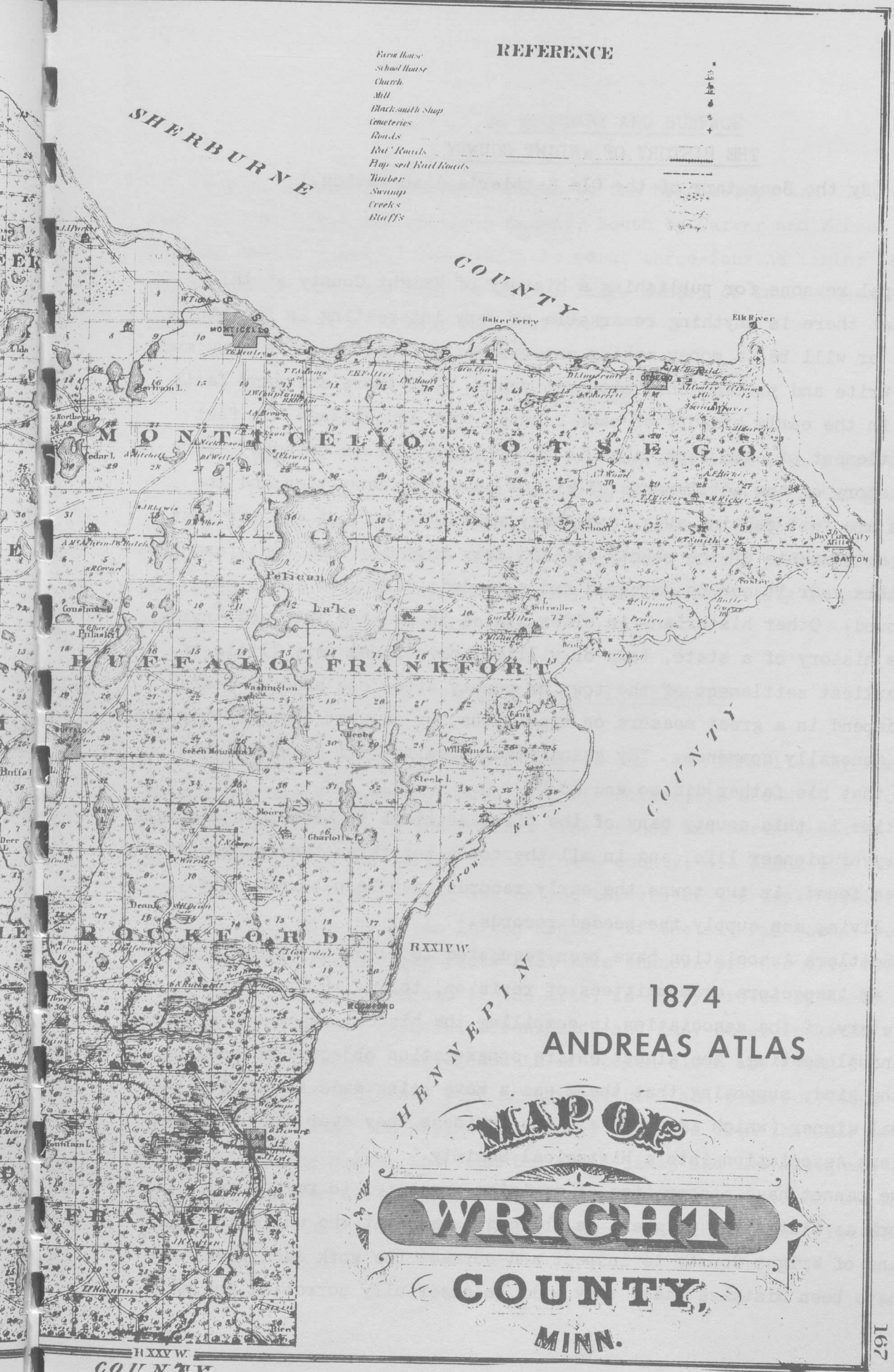


The Wright County Eagle was first printed September 27, 1872. It became the Delano Eagle September 15, 1881.



Ignatius Gutzwiller Jr. was part owner of the Eagle from August 20, 1872 until March 15, 1877 when he became sole owner.


CLEARWATER COUNTY
STEARNS
MEEKER
T122 N.
T121 N.
T120 N.
T119 N.
T118 N.
CLEARWATER
SILVER CREEK
SOUTH SIDE
CORINNA
MAPLE LAKE
FRENCH LAKE
ALBION
CHATHAM
COKATO
MIDDLEVILLE
MARYS VILLE
STOCKHOLM
WOODLAND
VICTOR
Clear Lake
ST PAUL
HOWARD LAKE
RXXVIII W
RXXVII W
RXXVI W
WRIGHT COUNTY
CARVER


REFERENCE
Farm House
School House
Church
Mill
Blacksmith Shop
Cemeteries
Roads
Rail Roads
Rip sed Rail Roads
Timber
Swamp
Creeks
Bluffs
SHERBURNE
COUNTY
Baker Ferry
Elk River
MONTICELLO
OTSEGO
Pelican
Lake
BUFFALO
FRANKFORT
Washington
Steele L.
Moore L.
Charlotte L.
ROCKFORD
RXXIV W.
HENNEPIN
COUNTY
Crow River
FRANKLIN
RXXV W.
COUNTY
1874
ANDREAS ATLAS
MAP OF
WRIGHT
COUNTY,
MINN.

January 6, 1881

THE HISTORY OF WRIGHT COUNTY

(By the Secretary of the Old Settler's Association.)

Introductory.

The pricipal reasons for publishing a history of Wright County at this time is not that there is anything remarkable or very interesting in the history, or that it is, or will be, a money making enterprise, or that there is very much of history to write and publish-only about 25 years. But there are many facts and incidents in the early history of each county, town and village, in fact the early setttlement of each farm, that is interesting to some persons. Very much of the history of the settlements of Wright county is unwritten and the first settlers are fast passing away, and every year some part of the earliest events in the settlements of the county is laid away in the silent tomb, and goes to oblivion; this year it can be gathered and recorded; next year it is gone never to be found. Other historians in older states in looking into and trying to collect the history of a state, town or village, have found very little of fact in the earliest settlement of the town or county after one hundred years. They have to depend in a great measure on traditions, or on what stories they can gather, which generally commence: "My grandfather used to tell me when I was a little boy, that his father did so and so."

At this time in this county many of the first settlers in each town can tell their own story of pioneer life, and in all the towns but three the records of the towns have been found, in two towns the early records have been burned, but the memory of living men supply the needed records.

The Old Settlers Association have been requested to elect or appoint certain officers as inspectors or committees of revision, to act in connection with the secretary of the association in compiling the history, when so requested, at the last annual meeting; the almost entire congregation objected to hearing anything of the kind, supposing that there was a move being made to deprive them of their annual dinner (which is about all the business they ever did) and turn the Old Settlers Association into a Historical Society.

But if we cannot have a committee of revision appointed to revise and correct our work as historian, we shall be obliged to appoint the whole and all of the citizens of Wright County to inspect and correct the work each week, and where there have been mistakes made, they will be cheerfully corrected and made right.

THE BOUNDARY AND SURFACE

Wright county is bounded: North by the Mississippi and Clearwater Rivers; East by Crow River and Hennepin county; South by Carver and McLeod counties; West by Meeker county. The county is about three-fourths timber land, the balance brush land and prairie with a large number of small lakes and several quite large ones, with many small creeks.

THE SOIL

The soil on the prairie is mostly a dark red loam with a gravelly or sandy subsoil. In the timber the soil is mostly alluvial with a strong clay subsoil. The natural meadows or grass lands, almost always rejected by the first settlers, are now considered the most valuable on account of the production of large quantities of hay of a superior quality, and its fertility in producing the tame grass, such as timothy and red top.

PRE-HISTORIC INHABITANTS

That this part of the country was at one time inhabited by a race of human beings far superior to the known race of Indians, is shown to the careful observer in almost every town in the county. The mounds and earth works on the shores and around nearly all of the lakes of the county, all along the banks of the Mississippi and Crow rivers, and on the borders of the small prairies (a description of which will be given in the history of the several towns) would seem to indicate or establish this fact. That this unknown pre-historic race were far advanced in civilization and in the arts, is fully proved by their pottery, and their axes, hammers, chisels, arrow heads and many other implements made from pure copper. Besides this, remnants of woolen cloth are found in their mounds and earth works; that they were an agricultural and peaceful race, is fully demonstrated. That the empire or country extended from the Gulf of Mexico to the Red River of the North, and from the great lakes and the Alleghany to the Rio Grand, is also an established fact; that they occupied all of the most fertile lands in this vast area, is beyond a doubt; that they were "fire-worshippers"

is proved by the temple mounds, several of which still exist in this country; that they were driven south by a warlike race or exterminated, seems to be the opinion of investigators.

How long ago they occupied this land, what became of them, or who were their immediate successors or owners of the soil, is at present a mystery. That they had to defend themselves against the attacks of warlike tribes from the north is shown by the line of forts and fortifications extending from the Atlantic ocean through the state of Pennsylvania and to the great lakes. Whether their aggressors were the North American Indians or some other race is not known. That the Sioux or Dakotah tribes of red men know nothing of the "Mound builders" is true; that the first French explorers, traders and the missionaries could learn nothing from them of the extinct race and their works, even by tradition, is also true. All they knew was that the mounds had always been there.

When Father Hennepin visited the falls of St. Anthony, in July A. D. 1680, the Sioux Indians knew just as much about a people who had inhabited this country before them as they know at the present time, and no more.

THE CARVER CLAIM

On the first day of May, 1767, when Jonathan Carver met the Dakotahs at Carver's cave below St. Paul, and bought the land that his heirs now claim, his deed did not extend above the falls of St. Anthony, so that Wright county is not affected by this land grant.

THE DAKOTAHS AND CHIPPEWAS

The Dakotahs then claimed that they had always owned the land; that they had been driven from the north by the Chippewas is true, even from the shores of Lake Superior, until they made no claim on the lands east of the Mississippi river. The belt of timber known as the big-woods, extending southwest from Mississippi about 100 miles, comprising the largest part of Wright county, has evidently been the scene of many a hard fought battle between these tribes. The wily Chippewa always watching to harras and slay his mortal foe, the Sioux, would always attack hunting parties in the timber, but hardly ever in the open prairies; the latter was at home on the prairie. The home of the Chippewa was in the timber.

Like the timber wolf and the prairie wolf, each could best fight in his own elements, and for many years the Chippewa would watch the Sioux, and when caught hunting, fishing or gathering cranberries in the big-woods, he would pounce down so suddenly on the unprepared, unsuspecting Sioux, that almost in every instance would get a few scalps. Then the war-whoop would resound through our forests, and the sharp clatter of the rifle would rebound along our rivers, and over our lakes-not much of a battle, but a large amount of yelling and whooping and any quantity of powder and lead wasted, by the assault, the confusion, the retreat, the pursued and the pursurers, the dodging from tree to tree until the river was reached. Almost always the Chippewas were a small band and after a dash and a few scalps were taken had to retreat before superior numbers. Then woe to the daring Chippewa if he was obliged to cross a prairie. Many of the small wandering bands never again reached their own country. Many fell at Otsego, Clearwater and Monticello prairies.

In attempting to cross the Mississippi just above the present village of Monticello, at the head of the island in the river, in the year 1820, a large party of raiding Chippewas were overtaken by the infuriated Sioux, when they were about to cross the river, and many were killed; the band of Chippewas were nearly anihilated. Among the fallen braves was Hole-in-the-day, the grandfather of the present Chippewa chief of this name; he was killed on the bank of the river and was buried near where he fell. The bones of the victims of these Chippewa raiders are scattered through the timber and on the margin of the prairie. The arrowheads and tomahawks are turned up by the plow in many places. But the history of the battles will never be written.

The red men of the forest and the pioneers are passing away, and very soon nothing but tradition will speak of his exploits, his domestic life, his hunting and fishing, his battles with his own race. Only the wars with the pale faces, his bloody murders, his treaties to sell his lands; and his continual removals to the far west, will live in history.

THE CEDING OF TERRITORY - TRADE WITH INDIANS

The territory comprising Wright county was not in the treaty of Paris made between the United States and England, after the Revolution, the 3rd of Sept. A. D. 1783, that included a part only of the State of Minnesota, all lying east of the Mississippi, so our neighbors in Sherburn, Anoka and Ramsey counties

belonged to the United States; the lands on the west side, including Wright county, belonged to Spain by discovery and conquest. Thirteen years after the treaty with England, the Spanish possessions north of Mexico and west of the Mississippi, were ceded to France, and in 1803, the whole tract called the Louisiana purchase, were ceded by France to the United States. Previous to this date but very little was known of the country west of the Mississippi. Some few trading posts had been established by the French, and trade and traffic with the Indians had been opened. The stock of blankets, guns and ammunition was small, but some of the Indians had learned the use of fire-arms, and a very few had blankets. But very soon the United States sent explorers into the new purchase. Among others were Lewis and Clark's party, and Lieut. Zebulon Pike. Soon the Northwestern Fur Company had trading posts established all along the Great river and its tributaries, and trade with the Indians was brisk. The gun, in many cases a poor affair, soon took the place of bow and arrows, and the blankets, the place of skins of animals.

Whether the contact of the Indian with civilization has been an advantage to him or not, is not a settled question. He gained in some things, but lost in others, he learned the vices of the white man, but very little of his virtues. The missionary did not have the influence of the whisky seller. He learned sooner to love the fire-water than he did the teachings of Christianity. Destruction and death followed in the paths of the whisky seller, and, if what is known of the Indian before his contact with civilized men, is but of the savage, what is known of him since that time, is the savage brute.

CONCERNING THE COUNTY HISTORY

When it was sometime ago announced that we would publish in the EAGLE a history of Wright county, it was by many persons regarded with suspicion and doubt; it was considered a dodge to gain subscribers, especially by those who had some years since been induced to subscribe for the Monticello Times under the promise that it would soon publish a history of Wright county, for which however not even a beginning had been made. On this account many who want the history complete have hesitated to subscribe for the EAGLE for fear they would be taken in by it too. That doubt or fear, we trust has been removed. The publication of the history commenced last week, as promised, and will be continued from week to week until completed. The manusctipt is furnished, as much and as fast as we have the space in our columns to publish. It is intended to give an impartial and correct history of the county, the several towns, etc., as promised. Of course there are imperfections in all works of this kind, and especially in the first history of any town, county or state, and mistakes may be made, but it is the desire of the author as well as of the publisher to have it as far right as possible, and any errors or omissions, if detected and pointed out, will confer favors by calling our attention to mistakes, especially important ones, should any occur. We shall be glad to hear from any and all who have useful suggestions to make, or facts to report.

Those who wish the history complete must subscribe at once, as the issue of the paper containing the beginning is nearly exhausted, and only a few more copies can be furnished.

Old subscribers who are in arrear for the paper, are respectfully requested to pay up at an early opportunity.

THE HISTORY CORRECTED

St. Paul, Jan. 20, 1881

Secretary of the Old Settlers' Association, Wright County:

Dear Sir:-- In your first article on Wright county, in the EAGLE of the 6th inst., Hon H.M. Rice says there is a mistake about the death of the Hole-in-the-day, and I send you the correction from his own personal knowledge.

Truly yours,

Wm. H. H. Taylor

COL. TAYLOR:

Dear Sir:-- Hole-in-the-day, grandfather of the present chief by that name, died on the east side of the Mississippi river above Sauk Rapids, in the spring of 1847. I knew him well. His remains were buried on a high hill near Platt river.

Truly yours,

H. M. Rice

We are under many obligations to Messrs. Taylor and Rice for assistance in collecting facts in the history, and especially for corrections. Hon. H.M. Rice is acknowledged by all as the very best authority on this subject. We shall always cheerfully correct mistakes. The statement of the death of Hole-in-the-day was received from F.M. Cadwell of Albion, the very first settler at Monticello, Oct. 1852; his information was from a missionary who had been with the Leech Lake Indians thirty years. The mistake was entirely in the name of the chief killed.

THE AUTHOR

January 13, 1881

THE FIRST CIVIL GOVERNMENT

The territory of Wisconsin extended over this part of the state, but in 1848, the State of Wisconsin was admitted into the Union, and in March 1849 the territory of Minnesota was organized. This was the first civil organization that affected what is now Wright county. But since the year 1820 there has been a military government, with head quarters at Fort Snelling, and a part of the work of the soldiers was to protect the Indians in their rights, and to allow no white settlers, or squatters, on Indian lands. But very few attempted to settle in the territory previous to 1840. Only a few who were disappointed with the Selkirk settlement (now Manitoba) returned, and with permission of the military authorities settled near Fort Snelling on both sides of the Mississippi; and a few Canadian French who were generally engaged in hunting and trapping and as boatmen, scouts and guides. The Canadians were a hardy race and explored the country in every direction from Fort Snelling. To them we are indebted for the earliest outline maps of the Northwest, giving the principal lakes, rivers, prairies and timber lands. It is true that they were not always correct, and as pioneers they were enterprising, industrious and intelligent.

AN HYPERBOREAN REGION

Forty or fifty years ago this part of country was considered almost uninhabitable, at least by civilized white men. We very well remember the letters written from Fort Snelling during the winter of 1836 - 1837, and our impression, when a small boy, was that the upper Mississippi and especially the country around the Falls of St. Anthony was an hyperborean region, and have always supposed that H. W. Longfellow, when writing the "Song of Hiawatha," had some of those Fort Snelling letters before him, especially in the famine:

"O, the long and dreary winter!
O, the cold and cruel winter!
Ever thicker, thicker, thicker,
Froze the ice on lake and river,
Ever deeper, deeper, deeper,
Fell the snow o'er all the landscape,
Fell the covering snow, and drifted,
Through the forest, 'round the village."

"O, the famine and the fever!
O, the wasting of the famine!
O, the blasting of the fever!
O, the wailing of the children!
O, the anguish of the women!
All the earth was sick and famished,
Hungry was the air around them,
And the hungry stars in heaven
Like the eyes of wolves glared at them."

The description given at that time, by very likely a homesick officer at Fort Snelling, of the country and Indians was anything but pleasant. The stunted dwarf timber along the river, the sandy barren plains, the starving Indians, the excessive cold, all combined to give the impression that this country would never be settled by white men. It seems that the winters were extremely cold, the snow very deep, the buffalo, deer and nearly all other game had left this part of the country early in the fall, so that the Indians did not get the usual amount of meat in the fall and could get nothing in the winter, so that hundreds of them actually starved; and during the winter a malignant fever broke out among them, and in many cases destroyed whole villages, leaving not one alive. The Sioux and Chippewas suffered alike. On both sides of the river the famine and fever were felt. The provisions at the Fort were dealt out freely to alleviate the suffering Indians, until the soldiers were in danger of starvation. Ten years of plenty hardly restored the devastation made by the famine and the fever.

INDIAN TREATIES

The first treaty with the Indians for lands west of the Mississippi river, in Minnesota, was made at or near Fort Snelling, or at the mouth of the St. Peter river (now the Minnesota river) between Lieut. Zebulon Pike, afterwards Gen. Pike, on the part of the United States, and the chiefs of the Sioux Indians, in 1805, whereby the Indians ceded to the United States a tract of land ten miles square north of the St. Peter river and west of the Mississippi

river, since called the "Fort Snelling reserve," and including the land which is now the city of Minneapolis.

But the first treaty made with the Indians affecting the county of Wright, was made with the Winneabagoes at Washington, D. C., October 13th. 1846, whereby the Indians ceded to the United States the "neutral grounds" occupied by them. This was a tract of land in Iowa 40 miles wide, above and below and opposite Prairie du Chien, which had been set aside for their use by the government, so as to interpose them between the Sioux on the north, and the Sac and Fox Indians on the south, who were hostile to each other, while the Winnebagoes were friendly to both. The Winnebagoes were granted a tract of land west of the Mississippi and north of the Minnesota river, and as Wright county was included in this grant, we present the Winnebago Treaty as a sample of Indian negotiations:

TREATY WITH THE WINNEBAGO INDIANS

Articles of a treaty made and concluded at the city of Washington, on the thirteenth day of October, in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, between the United States on the one part, by their commissioners, Albion K. Parris, John J. Abert, and T. P. Andrews, and the Winnebago tribe of Indians, of the other part, by a full delegation of said tribe specially appointed by the chiefs, head men, and warriors thereof.

ARTICLE I.

It is solemnly agreed that the peace and friendship which exists between the people of the United States and the Winnebago Indians shall be perpetual; the said tribe of Indians giving assurance, hereby, of fidelity and friendship to the government and people of the United States giving to them, at the same time, promise of all proper care and parental protection.

ARTICLE II.

The said tribe of Indians herby agree to cede and sell, and do hereby

cede and sell to the United States, all right title, interest, claim and privilege to all lands, wherever situated, now or heretofore accupied or claimed by said Indians, within the states and territories of the United States, and especially to the country now occupied, inhabited, or in any way used by them, called the "neutral ground" which tract of country was assigned to said Indians by the second article of the treaty of Fort Armstrong, concluded on the fifteenth day of September, 1832, and ratified on the thirteenth day of February following.

ARTICLE III.

In consideration of the foregoing purchase from, or cession by the said Indians, the United States hereby agree to purchase and give to the said Indians, as their homes, to be held as all Indians' lands are held, a tract of country north of St. Peter's and west of the Mississippi rivers, of not less than eight hundred thousand acres, which shall be suitable to their habits, wants and wishes: PROVIDED such land can be obtained on just and reasonable terms.

ARTICLE IV.

The United States agree to pay to said tribe of Indians, the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the land, and the sum of forty thousand dollars for release of hunting privileges, on the lands adjacent to their present home, making the sum of one hundred and ninety thousand dollars, being in further consideration of the session or sale made to the United States by the second article to this treaty, to be paid as follows:

Forty thousand dollars to enable them to comply with their present just engagements, and to cover the expenses of exploring and selecting (by their own people or by an agent of their own appointment) their new home; twenty thousand dollars in consideration of their removing themselves, and twenty thousand dollars in consideration of their subsisting themselves the first year after their removal; ten thousand dollars to be expended for breaking

up and fencing lands under the direction of the President of the United State, at their new home; ten thousand dollars to be set apart and applied, under the direction of the President to the errection and carrying on of one or more manual labor schools for the benefit of said tribe of Indians; and five thousand dollars for building a saw and grist mill. The balance of said sum of one hundred and ninety thousand dollars, viz: eighty-five thousand dollars to remain IN TRUST with the United States and five per cent. interest thereon to be paid annually to said tribe or applied for their benefit as the President of the United States may from time to time direct, for the period of thirty years, which shall be in full payment of the said balance: PROVIDED, That no part of the said consideration money shall be paid until after the arrival of said tribe of Indians at their new home, and appropriations shall have been made by Congress; and that the sums for meeting their present engagements, for removal and subsistance, and for exploring their new home, shall be paid to the chiefs in open council, in such manner as they in said council shall request.

ARTICLE V.

It is further agreed by the parties to this treaty, that the said tribe of Indians shall remove to their new home within one year after the ratification of this treaty, and their new home shall have been procured for them and they duly notified of the same.

ARTICLE VI.

It is further agreed by the parties to this treaty, that the President may at his discretion (should he be at any time of opinion that the interests of the Indians would thereby be promoted) direct that any portion of the money not exceeding ten thousand dollars per annum, now paid in goods, as provided for by the last clause of the fourth article of the treaty of the first day of November, 1837, be applied to the purchase of additional provisions, or to other purposes.

In testimony whereof, the commissioners, Albion K. Parris, John J. Abert and T. P. Andrews, and the undrsigned chiefs, head men, and delegates of the Winnebago tribe of Indians, have hereunto subscribed their names and affixed their seals, at the city of Washington, this thirteen day of October, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six.

ALBION K. PARRIS,
JOHN J. ABERT
T.P. ANDREWS
Commissioners.

Hoong-ho-no-kaw,
Is-jaw-go-bo-kaw,
Cp-no-ha-ta-kaw,
Naw-hoo-skaw-kaw,
Shoong-skaw-kaw,
Maw-nee-ho-no-nic,
Sho-go-nee-kaw,
Chas-chun-kaw,
Naw-hey-kee-kaw,
Ah-hoo-zheb-kaw,
Kaw-how-ah-kaw,
Kooz-a-ray-kaw,
Wo-gic-qua-kaw,
Baptist Lasaliea,
Maw-hee-ko-shay-naw-zhee-kaw,
Waw-kon-chaw-ho-no-kaw,
Maw-ho-kee-wee-kaw,
Ha-naw-hoong-per-kaw,
Waw-ma-noo-ka-kaw,
Waw-roo-jaw-hee-kaw,
Waw-kon-chaw-per-kaw,
Waw-kon-chaw-she-shick-kaw,
Watch-ha-ta-kaw,
by Henry M. Rice, his delegate.

Witnesses:- John C. Mullay,
Secretary to Board of Commissioners.
J. C. Fletcher, Sub-Agent
S. B. Lowry,
Peter Mananaige,
Antonine Grignon,
Simeon Lecure,

Interpreters,

H. L. Dousman,

Richard Chute,

John Haney,

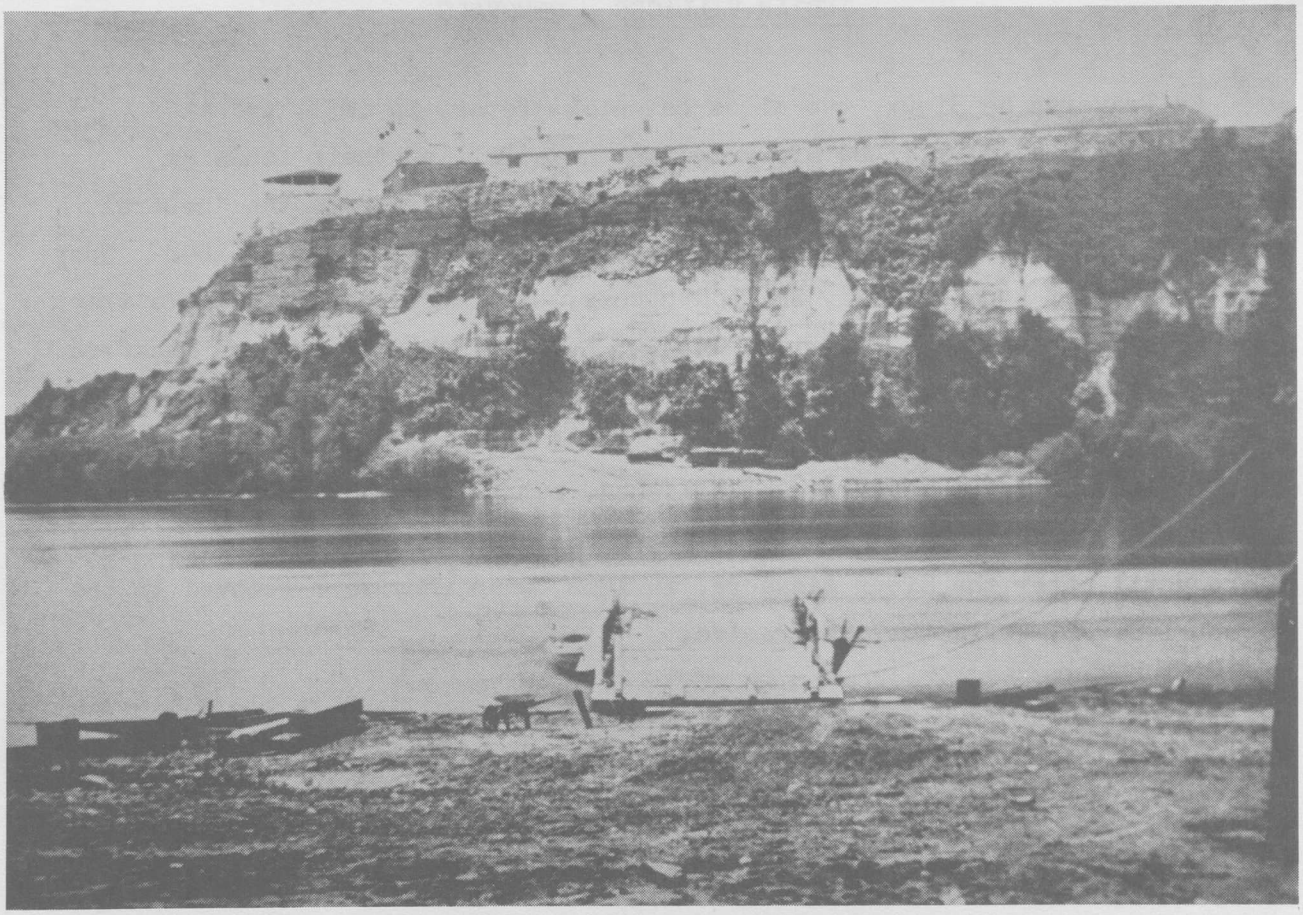
George Cahn,

James Maher,

(To each of the names of the Indians are affixed a seal and a mark.)

INDIAN VILLAGES - REMOVALS

At Traverse de Sioux, two miles below St. Peter, in 1851, and at Mendota in August, 1851, the Sioux Indians ceded all of their lands in Minnesota to the United States. The Winnebagoes removed from the "neutral grounds" in Iowa to their new homes in Minnesota in the summer of 1848. They were located at Long Prairie, in Todd county, but ranged over the whole tract and had several villages in Wright County; Buffalo Lake, Otsego and Rockford, were their principal homes in Wright county. At Long Prairie stores were established, a large number of houses built, a saw mill and grist mill were also built, and quite a village established, but they were removed to their reservation on the Blue Earth river, south of Mankato, in 1855, and remained there until after the Sioux massacre, in 1862, when they were removed to the Missouri River, where they now reside.



Fort Snelling. The site was secured in 1805 and the first soldiers arrived in 1819. It was first called Fort St. Anthony but the name was changed to Snelling in 1824 in honor of Col. Josiah Snelling who built it.

CRITICISM VS. CORRECTION

In the WRIGHT COUNTY TIMES of January 25th, a pretended Old Settler makes his mark in attempting to criticise the history of Wright county as published up to the present time. He starts out with the false asserion that we invited criticism. We have asked for corrections. But the TIMES' historian does not attempt to correct anything, only criticises, and the critic must expect to be criticised. If the TIMES' historian is cognizant of any historical fact in regard to the soil of Wright county that has been overlooked or misstated, the public would like very much to have a correction from him. Or if he thoroughly examined all of the mounds and earthworks in Wright county and knows what has been found in them, or that they were built by a race not any more enlightened than the Sioux and Chippewas, let him give his reasons, or wait until the histories of the several towns are published.

The statement of the death of Hole-in-the-day is answered in last week's EAGLE, and we suppose that Hon. H. M. Rice, of St. Paul, is as good authority as "the oldest settlers hereabouts." According to the TIMES' historian, what they don't know is not worth knowing.

About the Indian battle, he presumes we refer to Battle Rapids two miles below Monticello. He can presume many things, as many as he pleases; but we did not refer to Battle Rapids. If the TIMES' historian knows anything about a battle fought at Battle Rapids, or why the rapids were so named, he should let it be known. We have consulted many of "the oldest settlers hereabouts," and they referred us to A.C. Riggs as knowing something about it, as he was here in 1848, and helped to move the Winnebagoes to their new home at Long Prairie; but he has no information on the subject, not even by tradition. So the TIMES' historian will please explain as we have explained in the EAGLE of last week.

We are ever thankful for information and correction, and of course, have no objection to criticism, that is every one's privilege, and there is no law against anybody putting themselves in an awkward position.

We may have to seek for information from that elaborate history of Wright county which however did not extend very much beyond the town of Monticello, and issued from the TIMES office about twelve years ago. Or of that other history "soon to be published" of nearly two years ago, of which both histories the pretended Old Settler is the undoubtful father.

THE AUTHOR

THE FIRST SETTLERS

The first white settlers in Wright county were David McPherson and John McDonald sen., on the 31st day of July, 1852. McPherson remained here but a short time, and finally left his family here and went west to Pike's Peak, Colorado, where he remained six or seven years, when he returned and removed to the State of Wisconsin; his wife was a daughter of Capt. Vail of Fort Snelling, and was a half breed Indian. John McDonald sen., who was actually the first settler, was born on the 5th day of June, 1806, in Standish, Cumberland county, State of Maine. He is a millwright by trade; he landed in Minnesota the 25th day of September, 1847, and in company with Caleb Dorr, Ard Godfrey, George Forbes, W. A. Cheever and others laid the first stick of timber in the first dam built at St. Anthony Falls, during the fall of 1847. His first work after his arrival in Minnesota was to repair the old Government saw mill on the west side of the falls so as to saw out planks for a flat boat; he went up to the Rum river pineries that winter with a number of lumbermen to procure timber for the dam and mill, but failing to find the kind of timber they needed they returned, and with a large party in the spring of 1848, went up the Mississippi river to Swan river, where they procured all the timber they wanted for the dam and mill. Mr. McDonald worked about a year at Willow river, in Wisconsin, building a saw mill, but his family arriving from Maine, he returned to Minnesota and worked at the millwright business and at lumbering; and on the 31st day of July, 1852, he and his wife went up the Mississippi river, and selected a claim on sec. 17, township 121, range 23, now in the town of Otsego, where he now resides. Quite a number of settlers came into that town during the succeeding two years, so that Otsego is the oldest town in the county.

In the autumn of 1852, several persons settled in the county, at or near Monticello; the first of these were F. M. Cadwell and H. W. McCrory, who took up claims just above the townsite of Monticello and on each side of the Mill creek. If there was any communication between the settlers of Monticello and Otsego, it was by the Indian trail along the Mississippi river. In the spring of 1854, H. W. McCrory and two others went to McDonald's with an ox team to get seed corn and potatoes, and it was a long journey, taking about

5 days; they had to cut a road part of the way and follow the very crooked Indian trail. Parties of Winnebago Indians were frequent visitors at the settlers' cabins during these first years; but in 1855, quite a number of persons had settled at Otsego and Monticello, and a few near the mouth of the Clearwater river, and in Silver Creek.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY

On the 20th day of February, 1855, the Territorial Legislature passed an act organizing Wright county. The county was named after the Hon. Silas Wright, an eminent stateman and politician of New York. The county established had the following boundaries: Beginning at the northeast corner of Davis county, thence running south on the east line of Davis county to the north line of Carver county, thence east on the north line of Carver county to the range line between ranges 24 and 25, thence north to the center of Crow river, thence down the center of said Crow river to the Mississippi river, thence up the Mississippi river to the Clearwater river, thence up said Clearwater river to the place of beginning. Monticello was designated as the county seat of said county. The Governor appointed John McDonald sen., Archie Downie and J. D. Taylor the first board of county commissioners. At the next session of the Territorial Legislature Davis county was annihilated as being altogether too large and indefinite in its boundaries, and Meeker, Kandiyohi and some other counties were established in its place. The boundaries of Wright county were made a little more plain but not changed materially.

The board of county commissioners met at Monticello, April 9, 1855. The board consisted of John McDonald chairman, Archie Downie and J. D. Taylor. John O. Haven was appointed clerk of the board of county commissioners and register of deeds. Herbert W. McCrory was appointed sheriff; William Creighton was appointed district attorney; James C. Beekman was appointed county treasurer; Israel Heard was appointed judge of probate; John O. Haven was appointed county surveyor; Row Brasie was appointed coroner; Selah Markham and Joseph Brown were appointed assessors.

The county of Wright was divided into three election precincts, named

and bounded as follows, to-wit: Big Bend precinct bounded on the east by a line running due south from John O. Haven's northwest corner on the Mississippi river, to the south line of the county; on the south and west by the south and west lines of county; on the north by the Mississippi river. Monticello precinct, bounded on the north by the Mississippi river; on the east by a line running due south from the north west corner of L. Dimmick's claim to the south line of the county; south by the south line of the county; west by Big Bend precinct. Pleasant Grove, precinct bounded on the north by the Mississippi river; east and south by Crow river, west by Monticello precinct. The boundaries of these precincts as given show the disadvantages the board of county commissioners labored under in designating the boundaries, as the land had not been surveyed. In July and August of this year, 1855, the United States had a survey made so that definite bounds could be given. A claim could be given according to the legal sub-divisions. Of course it made rather bad work with some of the squatters and changed their calculations on claims. But the changes were made without much trouble and generally satisfactory; but in a few cases it was hard to settle as the Government surveys would leave the claim shanty or dwelling house on the wrong claim, and the squatter could not get the land he intended to take without building another house or removing the old one.

The dwelling house of Selah Markham was designated as the place of holding elections in Big Bend precinct. Selah Markham, John C. Dow and John Oakes, were appointed judges of election; John C. Dow and Archie Downie were appointed justices of the peace; Oscar Dow and John Lowell were appointed constables.

In Monticello precinct the place designated to hold elections, was the dwelling house of William Creighton. Joseph Brown, William Van Ness and Samuel M. McMannus were appointed judges of elections; Samuel McMannus and George M. Bertram were appointed justices of the peace; Newell Houllet and J. B. Rich were appointed constables.

In Pleasant Grove precinct the place of holding the elections was the dwelling house of John McDonald. Ezra Tubbs, Charles Lambert and Caleb Chase were appointed judges of election; John McDonald and Ezra Tubbs were appointed justices of the peace; William Carsly and Otis T. True were appointed constables;

Archie Downie, Josiah B. Locke and D. L. Ingersoll were appointed assessors.

Each precinct had a school district. No 1, Pleasant Grove precinct, Dudley P. Chase school agent. No. 2, Monticello precinct, Nathan Fletcher, school agent. No. 3, Big Bend precinct, Selah Markham, school agent.

The board of county commissioners gave the clerk permission to hold his office at his residence until an office was secured and fitted up for him.

The next meeting of the board of county commissioners was held at Monticello, July 2, 1855. A petition was received for a county road from Waterville, at the mouth of the Crow river, to Monticello. The petition was granted, and Philip Boyden, D. L. Ingersoll and the county surveyor were appointed a committee to meet at the house of John McDonald on the 16th day of July, 1855, and lay out said road. A petiton was also received for a county road from Monticello to El Dorado City, at the mouth of the Clearwater river. The petition was granted and Selah Markham and Frederick Emery and the county surveyor were appointed a committee to meet at the house of James Chambers in Monticello, on the 8th day of August, 1855, and lay out and survey said road.

A petition was received from J. W. Hanaford and others for a school district, bounded as follows, to-wit: Beginning at the north-west corner of J. W. Hanaford's claim, running thence to the south-west corner of Ball's claim, thence running along his line one mile and a half to a point one-quarter of a mile from the residence of Slafter, thence north to a point parallel to J. W. Hanaford's east line and one mile and a half from his north-west corner, thence along his east line to place of beginning. It is readily seen what disadvantages the commissioners and others labored under before the land was surveyed, in giving boundaries even of a school district. The same is true with regard to roads, as will be seen by another petition granted by the board. A petition was received from Henry Heap, Henry Bradley, Philip Boyden and others, for a road from John McDonald's landing, across the county to Crow river, to near Bigelows, (now the old townsite of Hassan). The petition was granted, and Henry Bradley and the county surveyor were appointed a committee to meet at McDonald's on Monday, July 16, 1855, and survey and lay out said road.

S. J. Mason was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of S. M. McMannus, from the county. Herbert McCrory resigned from the office of sheriff, and Joseph C. Walker was appointed to fill the vacancy. David McPherson was appointed judge of election in Pleasant Grove precinct, to fill the vacancy

caused by Ezra Tubbs not qualifying. At a special meeting of the county commissioners, held July 23, 1855, James C. Beekman resigned the office of county treasurer and Row Brasie was appointed to fill the office, and gave bonds and was qualified.

At the same meeting the assessment roll was corrected and completed, and a tax of 11 mills on the dollar of taxable property was levied. The whole taxable property in the county was $33,863; the tax assessed was $575.67; the school tax $84.66. The whole was placed in the hands of Joseph C. Walker, sheriff, for collection. After selecting the jury list the board adjourned.

FIRST GRAND JURY LIST:

Josiah B. Locke,
Frederick Barker,
E. W. Merrill,
Joseph Brooks,
Samuel Wilder,
Frederick Emery,
Row Brasie,
Nathan Fletcher,
Abraham Wood,
Joseph Brown,
J. C. Beekman,
Caleb Chase,
James Phillips,
Samuel Carring,
S. W. Lambert,
Beriah T. Record,
Ezra Tubbs,
G. Barnes,
D. L. Ingersoll,
C. L. Boyd,
J. W. Voorhis,
George M. Bertram,
David Worthing,
B. F. Bursley,
William McDonald,
John E. Dow,
John Cakes,
Selah Markham,
E. Franklin Palmer,
William Cary,
A. Bartlett,
William Mann,
A. J. Hubbard,
H. Bradley,
L. S. Carpenter,
William Barnard,
D. B. Sutton,
Henry Chambers,

They also selected a petit jury list.

The board of county commissioners next met at Monticello, September 3, 1855. A petition was received, for a county road from Cedar street, Monticello, south through the prairie along the east shore of Voorhis and Balies lakes, to Big Lake, (now Pelican Lake.) The also audited and allowed the following bills, and accounts, and the first order issued was:

No. 1, for books and stationery.....$31.37
No. 2, to Selah Markham..... $4.00
No. 3, to Selah Markham, commissioner 4 days..... $8.00
No. 4, to D. P. Chase, 2½ days..... $6.00
No. 5, to Philip Boyden, 2½ days..... $6.00
No. 6, 7, 8, 9, to H. W. McCrory, surveying roads.....$41.15
No. 10, to W. W. Sears laying roads.....$2.00
No. 11, to Asa White laying roads.....$2.00
No. 12, to J. O. Haven, surveying roads.....$26.00

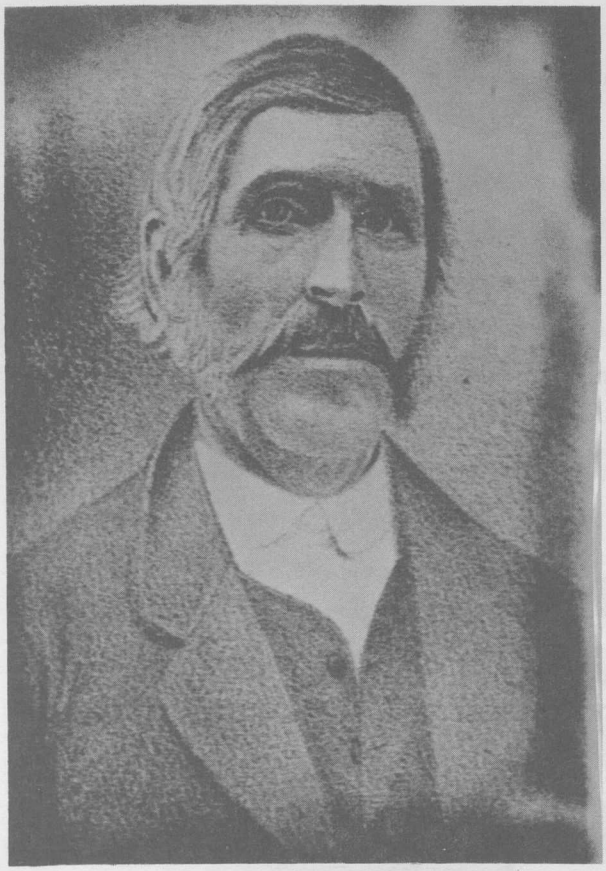
The whole amount of money collected for the year 1855, for county and school taxes was, $293.52.

The board of county commissioners for the year 1856, met at Monticello, January 7, 1856. The board consisted of Dudley P. Chase, H. W. McCrory, and Selah Markham. Dudley P. Chase was elected chairman of this board. At the meeting in June, 1856, the assessment roll was examined and corrected; the assessment was as follows:

Big Bend precinct.....$[illegible]3,299
Pleasant Grove precinct.....$22,255
Monticello precinct.....$82,180

And the taxes levied were:

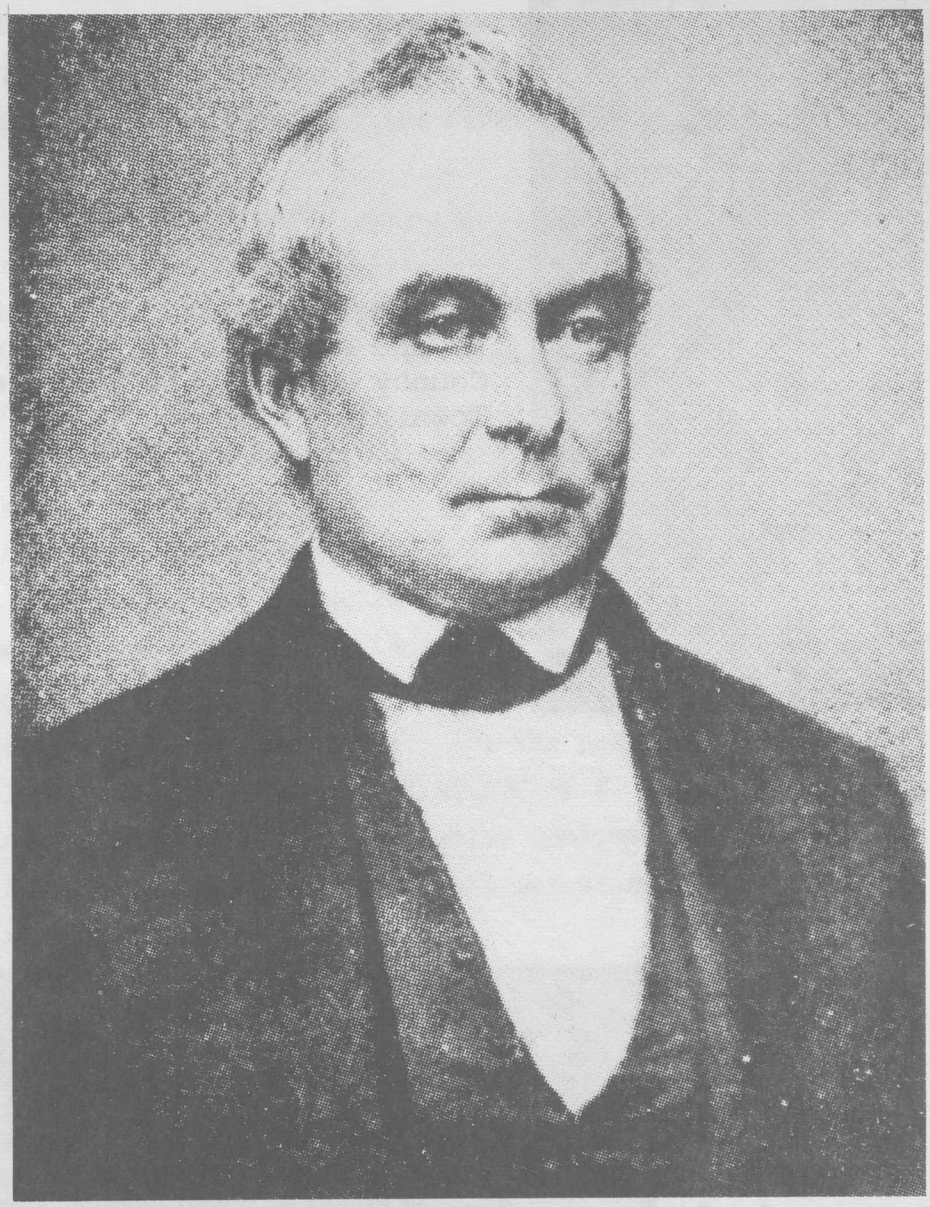
County taxes.....$1,053.84
Territorial taxes.....$126.71
School taxes.....$319.28



John McDonald Sr. was a millwright. He and his wife arrived in Wright County July 31, 1852 in Otsego Township.



This cabin is typical of those built by Wright County's first settlers out of native timber.



Silas Wright - New York statesman.

THE GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE

On the 19th of August 1856, the air was full of flying grasshoppers; they were seen about noon of that day going southeast, and were quite a mystery. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon they began to alight, and before night the ground was literally covered with them, and by the next day at noon they were busily at work eating every green thing. They made quick work with the small patches of corn and potatoes. In Otsego and Monticello, about the only places where there was any wheat, oats or rye raised, the grasshoppers trimmed off every green leaf and then cut off the small stems on the oat heads and left the bare stock standing, and the oats all on the ground. Much of the wheat was the Rio Grand variety and bearded; the grasshoppers cut off every leaf, but the beards were too much for them, so the wheat was not injured. The rye was hard and just ready to harvest, so that escaped their ravages. The settlers were very much amazed at the advent of the grasshopper, but in a few days when all the vegetables had disappeared and the corn nearly ruined, they began to be really frightened, and when later it was discovered that the pests had laid their eggs in millions, in fact the ground was full of them, it was evident that they had come to stay, or at least for another year's work. So all through the winter of 1856-'57, the all absorbing topic of conversation was the grasshoppers and what they would do. Where they went to in the fall of 1856 no one knew, whether they sailed away or went into the earth was not known, but they disappeared all at once. In the spring of 1857 they began to hatch and the ground was alive with them. This discouraged many from planting and seeding, and many discouraged settlers left the territory. The little hoppers began to eat, and nearly everything, including the grass in the meadows, was eaten as fast as it grew. About the first of June they began to move to the southeast by hopping, and in a few days they began to fly in the same direction. Crow river was full of the little hoppers, but they did not stop at rivers and creeks, but kept on their way, and by the first of July the whole greedy horde had left; they took about half of the crops.

RE-ORGANIZATION, ROADS AND SCHOOLS

The 5th of Janurary 1857, the board of commissioners met at Monticello.

Dudley P. Chase, H. W. McCrory and Ambrose Bryant were the commissioners. H. W. McCrory was elected chairman of the board. Various road petitions were received for roads running into almost every part of the county from Monticello, south, west and north. At this meeting a petition was received from G. D. George and others, to be set off into a separate precinct, to be described as follows: Townships No. 119 and 120, Range 24. The prayer of the petition was granted and the new precinct named Rockford, and the following officers appointed: Justice of the peace, Cyrus C. Jenks; constable, Wm. O. Eldred; road supervisor, Joel Florida. The election to be held at the house of C. C. Jenks. Also a petition was received from Geo. A. J. Overton and others, to establish the precinct of Buffalo, as follows: Township No. 120 Range, 25, and Townships No. 119 and 120, Range 26. The prayer of the petition was granted and the following officers were appointed: Judges of election, Amasa Ackley, Moses S. Calkins and S. B. Culver. Juctice of the peace, Geo. A. J. Overton; constable, Amasa Ackley; overseer of roads, Moses S. Calkins. The place of holding elections, the house of Amasa Ackley. And school districts were established in the precincts of Roakford and Buffalo and in various other parts of the county. Also a petition was received from Joel Florida and others for a county road from Rockford to Monticello; the prayer of the petition was granted. At this meeting C. B. Jordan was elected clerk of the board of county commissioners.

The whole number of scholars in the county as reported were as follows:

District No. 3.....23
District No. 4.....14
District No. 5.....51
District No. 6.....31
District No. 7.....73
District No. 8.....25
District No. 9.....22
District No. 10.....45

The board of county commissioners met again at Monticello, April 6, 1857. A petition was received from J. H. Haskell and others for a county road to Buffalo. The prayer of the petition was granted, and Solomon Hatch and J. Odell were appointed commissioners to locate and survey said road. Also the report of G. W. M. Drake, on the Forest City Road was received and accepted, and the road ordered surveyed. At this meeting a license was granted G. W. and A. C. Riggs to run a ferry from the foot of Washington street, town of Lower

Monticello, across the Mississippi river. The assessment rolls were received, examined and corrected. The total valuation for the property in the county was as follows:

Big Bend precinct.....$29,844
Monticello precinct.....$135,675
Pleasant Grove precinct.....$178,880

Total.....$344,399

Taxes assessed for the year 1857, one and one fourth cent, or 12½ mills on the dollar of valuation. The whole work of the county commissioners this year, or the greater part of the year, was laying out roads and establishing school districts.

The board of county commissioners met again at Monticello, January 4, 1858. The board consisted of Dudley P. Chase, H. W. McCrory, and Joel Florida. Joel Florida was elected chairman. At this meeting it was ordered that a map of the county be furnished by the county surveyor, showing the boundaries of the county, sections and town lines, and roads and school districts. A settlement was made with the sheriff. The whole amount placed in his hands for collection was $1,500.03; amount collected, $1,441.00; amount returned as delinquent, $59.03. A petition was received from C. C. Jenks and others, for a county road from Rockford to the west line of the county. Petition granted and C. C. Jenks and W. O. Eldred were appointed commissioners to meet at Godfrey's hotel, on the 14th day of June, 1858, and proceed to examine and lay out said road.

On the 5th day of April 1858, this board of commissioners met for the last time. The territory of Minnesota had become the State of Minnesota, and the commissioners closed up their work by establishing the following towns in the county, agreeably to an act passed by the Legislature providing for township organization, with boundaries and territory as follows:

Otsego-Township No. 121, range 23 and the east half of township No. 121 range 24.

Monticello - The west half of township No. 121 range 24, and townships No. 121 and 122 range 25.

Silver Creek - Township No. 122 range 26, and north half of township No. 121 range 26.

Clearwater - Townships No. 122 and 123 range 27, and township No. 121 ranges 27 and 28.

Albion - Township No. 120 ranges 27 and 28.

Maple Lake - South half of township No. 121 range 26 and north half of township 120 range 26.

Buffalo - South half of township No. 120 range 26, and township No. 120 range 25, and sections 4,5,6,7,8, and 9 in Buffalo.

Franklin - Township No. 118 and 119 range 25.

Woodland - Townships No. 118 and 119 range 26.

Middleville - Township No. 118 ranges 27 and 28, and township No. 119 ranges 27 and 28.

Under the new organization of towns the chairman of each board of supervisors of the several towns became the board of county commissioners.

The first meeting of this board was held at Monticello in the hall of the academy, September 14th, 1858, and was composed of the following persons:

Thomas Ham, Otsego
Henry H. Helm, Monticello
John L. King, Middleville
John M. McAlpine, Frankfort
John O. Haven, Silver Creek
Robert S. Holmes, Albion
S. R. Workman, Rockford
Jared D. Wheelock, Clearwater
C. A. Wright, Franklin
Jackson Taylor, Buffalo

Woodland and Maple Lake failed to organize and elect town officers at the proper time.

John O. Haven of Silver Creek, was elected chairman of this board, and C. B. Jordan, clerk.

Various petitions were granted and the first application for a license to sell spirituous liquors was made by S. H. Hotchkiss. After a very lengthy discussion the application was not granted, only two of the board voting in favor of license.

The years of 1854 and 1857 were eventful years in the history of Wright county pioneers. Until 1856 but very few claims have been taken only along the prairie on the Mississippi. But at this time claim hunters were plenty and the timber land was swarming with anxious seekers for new homes, but very many were looking for town sites and the location of cities. In these eventful years many new towns were laid out. Their names and locations and their splendid and much advertised advantages have passed away, but some of them still live in the memory of the first settlers. Such as Hassin, on the Crow river, the surveyed and platted city as presented by Wilcox, Bigelow and Norton was partly in Wright county. The map showed the splendid water power with mills, public squares, parks, railroads and everything beautiful and lovely and lots and towns shares sold very readily and Hassen was the great Central City of the Northwest, but only on paper and in the imagination. There is not a building on the original townsite and never has been. Marysville another much advertised city was located on the north fork of Crow river on section 21 near the center of the present town of Marysville. Mr. Plouder and Mr. Roberts laid out the city and sold shares and lots and advertised that they had purchased a 50 horse power engine and would have a saw mill and grist mill running in the fall of 1856. But the mill never went into operation and after selling many lots and giving Marysville a great reputation the city died and was forgotten. Another city in the present town of Marysville had quite as grand as reputation and that was Waverly not the present village, but what is known as Old Waverly. Messrs, Duffy, and Cornell made quite a splurge with Waverly in 1856 and shares and lots sold briskly. A splendid water power and the future county seat made the very beautiful city of Waverly a desirable and safe investment for spare funds in the hands of speculators. But the financial crash of 1857, killed Waverly as well as many other prosperous cities. Cokato, located on section 14 in the present township of Cokato then called Moores Prairie at the outlet of Cokato lake was a fast township and extremely advertised. The glowing descriptions of the very numerous advantages of the Gem City of the West brought many dollars into the pockets of the shrewd original owners, but Cokato is about what it was twenty two years ago. Northwood was located on the Mississippi river above the mouth of Crow river on sections 26 and 36 in the town of Otsego. O. H. Kelly

was the original owner and as he was not slow or diffident about letting the public know all about the advantages, beauties and bright prospects of the city of Northwood, shares and lots sold rapidly and many rich grists were brought to Kellys mill but like all of Kellys work he over did the thing. A very large hotel, store and freight house were built in 1857, so that it was really something more than a paper city but not much better and in a short time the hotel was empty the store closed and in a few years Northwood was forgotten. The hotel, store and other buildings decayed and went to destruction. A few holes in the ground, once cellars, is all that reminds the traveller or the old settler of Kelly's folly. Manhattan, another "beautiful city," as the proprietors described it in their maps and circulars, was situated about two miles below Monticello on the Mississippi River. It was a short lived city, and is only remembered by those who many in the present time in looking over old papers, find "shares in the City of Manhattan, Wright county" costing fifty dollars each. Such reminders are not very pleasant to contemplate but they are as pleasant as the townsite that never had a being except in name. There is so much of sameness in the Wright county ancient cities, that one will answer for all. El Dorado, Fremont, Albion, Maple Lake, Wright City, Frankfort on the Crow, and others have the same mushroom history. Some of them were candidates for county seat, and will be described particularly in the history of the several towns.

Walter S. Booth, Township Blank Printer, Rochester, Minn.

State of Minnesota, County of Wright, Town of Clear Water ss.

We, the Board of Supervisors of the said Town of Clear Water *having assessed each and every male inhabitant in said Town liable to be so assessed under the provisions of "An Act to provide for the destruction of grasshoppers and their eggs," approved March, 1877, to work in said Town one day in each week for* Five (5) *weeks from the time in spring when said grasshoppers shall become large enough to be taken until the 1st day of October following, for the purpose of catching and destroying grasshoppers and their eggs, have made out a list of the names of all persons against whom said tax has been assessed and who are liable to labor in Road District No.* Two (2) *in said Town, and the number of days labor assessed to each and every such person, as follows:*

Names	No. Days.	Names.	No. Days.	Names.	No. Days.
Bosworth Dwight	5	Smith.	5		
Campbell Geo.	5				
Cameron. M.	5				
Cameron. Wm.	5	Woodworth. S. G.	5		
		West. W. P.	5		
Gibbs. Joseph.	5				
Hasty. Harris	5				
Laughton. Geo.	5				
Mc. Leroy. Geo W.	5				
Mc Leroy Wm	5				

Given under our hands this Fourth *day of* April *A. D. 1877.*

G B Benson
Cyrus Smith
Selah Markham
Supervisors.

The Town Clerk will make a certified copy to the foregoing list and deliver it to the Overseer of Highways of said Road District; and the said Overseer is hereby required thereupon to proceed to give two days notice to all persons assessed to work as aforesaid, living within the limits of his said Road District, of the times and places when and where, and with what implements they are to appear to work for the catching and destroying of grasshoppers and their eggs, under the penalty of the law.

G B Benson
Cyrus Smith
Selah Markham
Supervisors.

HISTORY CORRECTIONS.-- Montrose, Jan. 30, 1881. EDITOR EAGLE:-- Since you invite corrections relative to your history of Wright county, I will correct the names of those who laid out the "cities" of Waverly and Marysville, viz: Marysville was laid out by Plutt and Robeaur, the last named being an Indian agent along the St. Peter river, I think at Traverse. I piloted one Secard of the "Halfway House" between St. Paul and Minneapolis, now the "Club House," to the new townsite of Marysville, between Christmas and Newyears in 1856; we had to cut our road part of the way. Mr. Secard was an interested party in the new city. Waverly was laid out by a Mr. Duffy and Col. Colwell in the spring of 1856.

Perhaps it would be interesting to know, also, that Mrs. Mooers, mother of Hon. Henry Mooers and A.P.Mooers, of Mooers Prairie, was the first white woman that settled west of the Virginia boys, now Montrose, and I think, but am not quite sure, that she was the first white woman west of Greenwood on the Forest City or old Territorial road in this county, and settled at Mooers Prairie in the fall of 1856.

Yours & c.,JOHN YOUNG

(We are glad to receive and publish these corrections. We hope that any and all errors that may occur will be as plainly and promptly corrected. For the error in Col. Colwell's name, one of the founders of old Waverly, the typo and proof reader are responsible. By referring to the manuscript we find that the name was there given correct. Mr. T.R. Barrett of Waverly, also called our attention to that error.

When the author comes to write up the history of a town, the old settlers, especially the first ones, will be more particularly mentioned.-- Ed.)

A CORRECTION CORRECTED

Mr. John Young of Montrose, attempts to correct the names of the persons who laid out the townsite of Marysville in 1856, and gives their names as Mr. Plutt and Mr. Robeaur. In the history we give their names as Mr. Plouder and Mr. Roberts. Mr. Young must remember that they were both Frenchmen, and were generally called by the French settlers Mr. Plude and Mr. Robaur. But that is the French sound or pronunciation of their names. If Mr. Young has any better evidence than the signatures of both the above named gentlemen, we stand corrected otherwise he is wrong and the history is correct.

The mistake of Cornell for Colwell was not ours as has been explained. We were well acquainted with Mr. Colwell. But we think he would be somewhat surprised at being called "Col. Colwell" for the first time.

THE AUTHOR

THE CLAIM-HUNTING PERIOD.

In these years, of the claim hunters that swarmed through the county, few wanted homes. The great majority wanted anything but homes; but all were anxious to find claims, and all pretended to be looking for homes, and were or would be actual settlers. One class was very particular and would spend days and weeks hunting for what they wanted, passing by and looking over the very best claims, always making great pretentions to wealth and influence in the Eastern states, but at the same time living on the charity of the pioneers. The particular claims that they wanted could not readily be found; that is, about 80 acres of prairie, level and clean, 40 acres of meadow, all red top or timothy, high and dry, 40 acres of thrifty timber, 10 acres in a lake with gravelly shores, clean soft water, a running brook and never failing springs; and when, often getting the assistance of the few settlers for days and weeks in hunting for such a place without pay, if anything was found to come anywhere near the desirable land, the claim would be taken, pre-empted, and that would be the last you would ever see of this model particular claim hunter. The roads were so bad, or the mosquitoes were so thick, or we had no schools and churches, and he could not think of bringing his cultivated family into the woods. So in a short time the model claim was sold to the speculator and is non-resident land to this time.

Another class were the business claim hunters; they came amongst us like a sky-rocket, full of business and in a great hurry wanted to clear up and make a big farm right away. A heavy farmer from the East or Middle states; he must have a claim immediately. His large family, and horses and many cattle and sheep were waiting at St. Paul for him to find a home. Every settler in the neighborhood was called to help this great farmer and business man to build his house and clear a few acres of land, and make all things ready by clearing roads and building bridges for the advent of a numerous family, many horses and cattle, and a very great addition to the small settlements. The bills of course would be paid when he returned with his family, but that was the last of him. With the aid of two false witnesses he had pre-empted his claim and sold it to a speculator. His family, his stock and all other great stories of wealth was only romance, and he wandered away to another locality, another land office,

and by change of name go through the same operation. Another class, the grumbler and fault finder, was never satisfied with anything. They came, looked around day after day, only to find fault, and if the settler would give him a claim and build him a house, it would all be the same. Everything was wrong, and after being a pest, a bore and a beggar for weeks, would leave, cursing the country because they did not find good roads, good schools and churches, and everything comfortable in a county not yet two years from its first settlement.

But many came to make permanent homes, and the land in the east, south and central portions of the county was nearly all taken by the close of the year 1857. But during that year the great financial crash came, and many claims were abandoned during the years 1858, 1859 and 1860. One reason for this was that very many of the actual settlers were poor and had depended on outside work to raise the money to pay for their claims. And when the land was put into market and sold in 1859, they could not pay for it and had to abandon their claims, and very many valuable claims on odd sections went into the hands of the railroad company. Some who borrowed money at 3 per cent. per month to pay for their claims had to leave them. Others hired money for other purposes and the mortgages were foreclosed and the farms given up. Very few of these original settlers are now living on the claims taken in 1856 and 1857 in the big woods. The grasshoppers in these years frightened many away. The difficulty of supporting a large family with such small clearings as could be made and cultivated in one year compelled many to remove to the cities so as to get work. They very seldom returned. Even in after years they would remember with horror the sufferings of 1857 in the big woods.

The settlers of 1856 and 1857 were from all parts of the United States, Canada and Europe; and although the towns on the Mississippi were mostly prairie and the first settlers were nearly all Americans, in the central and western part of the county, it was quite different - a heterogeneous mass of nearly all nationalities. Society was in a chaotic state. In every community there was a very great difference in manners, customs, usages and languages.

In organizing towns or even school districts, there were almost as many forms as there were individuals. The Eastern men did not agree with the settlers from the Middle states in the manner of organization. The Southern men had a way of their own; so had the German, the Irishman, the Frenchman and the Swede. In social life it was the same and in religious matters it would require at

least a dozen ministers to satisfy the various religious prejudices and opinions of a small settlement.

It required a large amount of forbearance, patience and charity to harmonize all conflicting opinions; but the pioneers possessed these good qualities, and customs were very few. The Americans soon learned to adopt some of the usages of the foreigners, and the Europeans took the advantage of the superior skill and usages of the American in clearing land, in building houses and in nearly all of the arts, customs and ways of civilized life. Charity was extended to all, and a new settler was assisted in building his house and in clearing his land, and harmony and brotherly love prevailed to a large extent. Social parties, dances, chooping bees, and very friendly communication was the rule. The "claim association," which had such an influence, or acted such a conspicuous part in settling disputes about claims in other parts of the State, had very little work to do in Wright county, and it was well they were not organized. Like vigilance committees, the claim association, in most cases was governed by prejudice, or bias, or money, and not by strict justice, and the disputes about claims were very generally settled without expense or trouble, and without regard to the courts, or to that humbug, the claim association.

Before the county was divided into towns, the laying out of roads and assessment of taxes, and nearly all other business of a public character, was in the hands of the board of county commissioners, and every settlement and nearly every individual wanted a road, and petitions were presented to the board of commissioners too numerous to mention, and nearly all granted. In fact nearly all of the business of that body of two years was to grant petitions for roads, appoint commissioners, to lay out the roads, and audit the bills, but to pay them was another thing. And in a few years, when the county was badly in debt, when county orders were worth 30 cents on the dollar, many persons were filled with wonder at such a new county being almost bankrupt, and severly criticised the action of the first boards of commissioners for being so extravagant; when the gentlemen composing the first boards of commissioners could not in justice refuse to grant the prayer of the petitioners for roads, order them surveyed, and order the bills paid.

It will be readily admitted that a large portion of Wright county was quite different from many other counties in the State. Excepting the few towns along

the Mississippi river it was almost impossible for settlers to get into the county, through the timber. No roads, no bridges, it was not like the prairie counties where settlers could travel without trouble, and without first cutting out roads and building bridges. And this county could not have been settled so readily, only for the liberality of the county commissioners in laying out roads.



Wright County with its large trees and newly opened roads.

THE WRIGHT COUNTY WAR

Another cause of these early financial difficulties in Wright county, rendering the county almost bankrupt, was the several criminal cases which occured about this time, and the so-called Wright county war; growing out of the murder of Wallace and the lynching of Jackson, his murderer. This matter should properly belong to the history of a town, but as in the event it became a county affair we shall give the cause, the progress and the end of the "Wright county war" as county history.

Among the many settlers who came into the county in 1857 was Henry A. Wallace. He was a native of Antrim, State of New Hampshire. He took a claim on the southeast quarter of section 2, township 119 range 25. He was about 28 years old, unmarried. He soon became quite a favorite with the settlers, and was reported to be quite wealthy and had considerable ready cash. He was well educated, genial and in every way a gentleman; had made considerable progress in farming in the spring of 1858, had built a substantial log house and had quite a large clearing. At the organization of the town of Rockford in 1858, he was elected assessor, which office he filled with credit to himself and the satisfaction of the town. About the same time Mr. Wallace came into the county, another individual made his advent, Oscar F. Jackson. He settled on the south-east quarter of section 3, of the same township. Jackson had a wife but not children. He came from Pittsburgh to Kanawha salt works in West Virginia. He built a log house on his claim, and had made a small clearing. In the spring of 1858, at the town election, he was elected supervisor and justice of the peace. He was supposed to be not very well off in this world's goods, as he was in the habit of telling how poor he was, and he did not work much at home, or did not cultivate much land. His excuse was that he had to work for his neighbors to get money to support his family, and among others that he worked for was Mr. Wallace. There was at the time no road to or near Wallace's place. Jackson and A. W. Moore were his nearest neighbors, about one and a half miles to either place. Mr. Wallace had a hay meadow on the east side of his claim, and having concluded to cut the hay, he made a contract with Jackson to help him cut it and have half of the hay. They commenced haying about August first. At this time on account of what was called the financial

crash of 1857, most of the settlers were without money, and very little work could be obtained in the cities or the country. All business paralized; lumbering, building and all other business was stopped; banks had nearly all failed. Corporations and railroad companies had become bankrupt; state bonds and all other bonds were a drug in the market, and the settlers in the timber land who had not raised much of anything, found themselves in pretty straightened circumstances. A very few Eastern bank bills were current.

Mr. Wallace had received money from New Hampshire during the summer, and always bills on the Amoskeag Bank of Manchester N. H., and there were very few if any bank bills in circulation. There had been so much lost by the bogus Minnesota banks, and other "wild cat banks," that if there was a good bank bill in circulation, it could be easily traced to the original owner. On the 8th day of September 1858, it was rumored that Mr. Wallace was missing. The next day Mr. A. W. Moore, one of Wallace's neighbors, reported that he had been to Wallace's house and could not find him; everything about the house was as usual, but Wallace had evidently not been home for several days. As he had no way of getting out except by Moore's the settlers became alarmed about him and quite a large party turned out to hunt for him. They looked over the house, the clearing, examined the well, and could not find a trace of the missing man. When it was stated that he had been cutting hay on the eastern part of his claim, (his house was on the west part) the whole party went to the hay meadow. There was several tons of hay cut, some in the stack, some in the swathe, and very soon a sickly stench coming from a bunch of small willows arrested their attention. The bushes were parted, and a sickening sight met their astonished gaze-the ghastly remains of Henry A. Wallace in an advanced state of decomposition. No wonder that those pale faces, those compressed lips and set teeth should, then and there swear vengeance on the murderer of a genial companion, a fast friend and an enterprising citizen-who-ever the murderer was and wherever he may be.

Found near the bushes, was a broken hand barrow, like the Indian barrow, one end to drag on the ground. It was made of light poles and the cross pieces nailed on. But by trying to move the body the nails had broken, the body had been pitched into the bushes and left. When taken up, it was found that one blow on the back part of the head with an axe or some other heavy blunt instrument, had caused his instant death. With an informal coroners

inquest the body was buried near the meadow. Suspicion soon rested on Oscar F. Jackson, as the murderer. When questioned, he did not know anything about Wallace; he had worked with him, cutting hay during the first part of August, but as Wallace wanted all of the hay he was paid for what he had done and left. But every day new facts came to light until it became almost certain that Jackson was the guilty man.

On the 16th of September 1858, G. D. George went to Monticello bringing some business before the board of county supervisors, and after stating the facts connected with the Wallace murder, he was advised to make a complaint against Jackson. Under the state law the judicial districts had each a prosecuting attorney. For the 4th judical district, James R. Lawrence of Minneapolis, was the prosecuting attorney. It was not thought best to consult him, and as there were two lawyers in Monticello the complaint was made. The writing is by Edward Hartley, afterwards county attorney and Captain of Co. E 8th Reg. Minn. Vol. Infantry. We copy from the original warrent:

STATE OF MINNESOTA,

County of Wright.

To the sheriff or any constable of said county.

Whereas Guilford D. George has this day complained to me in writing, that on or about August twenty-seventh A. D. 1858, Oscar F. Jackson of said county, without the authority of law, and with malice aforethought, killed H. A. Wallace of said county in the town of Rockford of said county, by striking him in the back of the head with an ax or other deadly weapon in the hands of said Jackson, whereby and by the effects of blows from said ax or other deadly weapon, by said Jackson administered, said Wallace then and there died, and prayed that the said Oscar F. Jackson might be arrested and dealt with according to law.

Given under my hand this 27th day of September, A. D. 1858.

Cyrus C. Jenks,

Justice of the Peace.

County of Wright

I hereby certify that I have this day arrested the within named defendent, Oscar F. Jackson, at his residence in this county, and have him now in custody in court.

Geo. M. Bertram,

Sheriff of Wright County

Rockford, September 27, 1858.

The justice court was held at Rockford. There were no lawyers present, G. D. George acted for the State, and Thomas R. Briggs (not at that time admitted to the bar) appeared for and conducted the defense. Quite a large crowd attended the examination and much feeling was manifested against the prisoner, but everything was quiet and peaceable, and the defendant was allowed to get witnesses and make a defense, but he did not at that time try to make any defense.

A large number of witnesses were examined on the part of the State. The facts brought out were that during the month of July and the first of August, Jackson had repeatedly said that he had no money and did not know how he would support his family, and had frequently asked for credit, and then about the last of August he had money to buy many things, and always bills on the Amoskeag Bank, the same kind of money that Wallace had received from home. The fact of Jackson's working with Wallace on the same meadow where his body was found, a few days previous to the finding of the body, and the fact that Jackson had not assisted in hunting for Wallace, and when asked about him did not seem to know or care anything about it, when he had been with Wallace more during the summer than any other man, and then not trying to make any defense, the justice court could not do otherwise than to commit him to await the action of the grand jury of Wright county, at the next term of the district court, 4th judical district, to be held at Monticello on the third Tuesday in March 1859. Jackson was taken to the Ramsey county jail by Sheriff Bertram, where he remained about two months; then, on account of the jail being considered unsafe, or over crowded, he was taken to Fort Ripley.

At the time Jackson was arrested, search was made for a rifle, gold watch and a blanket shawl that were missing from Wallace's house, but they could not be found. Mr. Hiram L. Wallace, brother of the murdered man, came here from Antrim N. H., and throughout the winter many days were spent looking after the missing articles. Every old log and brush heap for at least a mile around and along the paths to Jacksons house were thoroughly over hauled, but in vain. During the winter the body was taken up and removed to St. Anthony.

At the time Jackson was returned from Fort Ripley to St. Paul, which was but a few days before his trial commenced at Monticello, he pretended to Sheriff Bertram and others, that while at Fort Ripley, he had received a letter from his wife and that there was one enclosed that she had received from some unknown person then out on the Missouri river, stating that he, the writer, was traveling through the timber land in Wright county, in August, and that he had run across a man mowing in a meadow; that the man had a fine gold watch and rifle with him, that the watch and rifle were such a temptation to him that he killed the man by striking him on the back of the head with an ax, that he took the watch, rifle and what money he had, and traveled west; he had written the letter to her to save her husband, who he understood was accused of having committed the murder. But there was no proof that Jackson had received such a letter, although he had a writing of that kind in his possession. It was very generally believed he wrote it himself while at Fort Ripley. The letter was never offered in evidence as a defense at his trial.

The district court of the 4th judicial district convened at Monticello, March 27th 1859. E. O. Hamlin, district judge, presiding. The grand jury found a bill of indictment against Oscar F. Jackson for murder in the first degree. The trial commenced the 29th. James R. Lawrence, district attorney for the State, and George E. H. Day of St. Anthony, and Charles Kind and ex Gov. W. A. Gorman of St. Paul, for the defense. Gov. Gorman was then considered the best criminal lawyer in theState. The jury panel was exhausted and only nine jurors accepted. Almost all the jurymen from Rockford and Buffalo were challenged for actual bias.

J. W. Mulyey, Samuel Wilder and William Powell were appointed triers. A special venire was issued for six jurors and three were accepted. The jury were as follows:

John W. Washburn
Calvin Blanchard
Benjamin Bursley
John Zackman
Miranda R. Swartout
Alvah Cooley
Michael Kinns
John B. Rich

John Black — Alonzo T. Boynton

John D. Taylor — Hiram C. Colbough

The State had a large number of witnesses; nearly one half of the citizens of Rockford were witnesses for the State, and a few for the defense. There were a few also from Buffalo and from Greenwood, Hennepin County. Nothing new was brought out at the trial, only what had already been stated at the examination in the justice court. The fact of finding the body of Wallace, the probable cause of his death, the fact of Jackson having worked with him in the meadow, the proof of Wallace having received money on the Amoskeag bank in July, from home, and also that Jackson had the same kind of money soon after the murder, were the strongest circumstances against him. The very able lawyers on both sides worked hard, and it was a very long and exciting trial. Judge Hamlin in his charge to the jury is accused of dwelling very strongly on one point, and that was if there was a reasonable doubt in the mind of any juror in regard to the guilt of the defendant, that doubt must be given in favor of the defendant. The case was submitted to the jury at half past three o'clock in the afternoon, April 2nd. The jury came into court during the evening session and asked further instruction about the reasonable doubts. The judge in giving instructions spoke very plainly, that the doubt must be in favor of the defendant, and that there could not be a verdict of guilty if there was a reasonable doubt as to his guilt. At nine o'clock in the morning of April 3rd, the jury came into court with the verdict, and with many in Rockford and Buffalo a determination that the guilty man (as they believed him) should not go unpunished. The prisoner was discharged and immediately left the county. He went to Stillwater, where he had friends, but about the 12th of April returned to Minneapolis, when a few unwise or injudicious citizens of Wright county attempted to get him back into the county, by making a complaint before a Wright county justice of the peace, then at Minneapolis, for larcency from the house of Wallace, of molasses, flour, and money. A warrant was issued and Jackson was arrested, but his friends got out a writ of habeas corpus, and Jackson was discharged on account of want of jurisdiction by the justice issuing the warrent. It is very strange that, cognizant of the fact that some persons wished to get him into the county, and he well knew for what purpose, as he knew the almost universal belief that he was the murderer, and the sincere wish of law abiding citizens,

as he had a legal trial at least, he would stay away, as there had been much excitement and many threats made that if he could be found in the county he would be lynched, he should yet have returned. But on the evening of April 21st Jackson was seen by two individuals near his own house, and before morning the house was surrounded by fifteen men, a determined set, well armed, and during the day the force was increased to about thirty, and every avenue of escape was cut off. It seems rather strange, but it is true, that from Thursday morning until Sunday morning nothing was done except to watch the house. Whether they were afraid that Jackson was armed, or were waiting for more help is unknown. On Sunday morning they concluded to call to their aid the sheriff of Wright county. For this purpose A. W. Moore was sent to Buffalo, where he made complaint before J. Taylor, justice of the peace, against Jackson for stealing flour and other articles from the house of Wallace. A warrant was issued and placed in the hands of Sheriff Bertram, who started from Buffalo about three o'clock in the afternoon, with a guard to protect the prisoner, if arrested. The guards consisted of J. Taylor, James Sturges and Abner Himnam. They arrived at the house of Jackson, the sheriff went in, he found Jackson totally unarmed; he was considerably frightened and very much excited. The sheriff assured him that he would not be harmed as he had a strong guard to protect him, but he must go to Buffalo. The sheriff then went out into the bushes and held a consultation with the men who had surrounded the house for nearly three days. He then came back and reported to Jackson that they had all left and would not trouble him anymore; all that they wanted was for him to leave the county, which he agreed to do, and the thing was settled, and the sheriff, Jackson and the strong guard of three men started for Buffalo.

But when only a few rods from the house, the sheriff told Abner Hinman that he had better go ahead twenty or thirty rods so as to give an alarm if there was any prospect of having trouble. The question arises, why did the sheriff take this precaution if the mob had promised him that they would not molest them on the way to Buffalo, or if he had any faith in their promises? They had proceeded about sixty rods and were just opposite the Knights house (afterward Roloff's) when Hinman, who was about thirty rods in advance shouted, "look out, they are coming." The Sheriff turned to Jackson and said, "run for

your life, save yourself." The question had often been asked, why did not Jackson run for his life, as he had at least thirty rods the start and might have saved himself, as it was near sunset and in the night he might have eluded his pursuers? But no doubt Jackson comprehended the situation at once, and he knew very well the character of the men he had to deal with, nearly all practice chasing deer swift on foot, it would have been but a very short race for life, and if he had started the sharp report of many rifles would probably have saved the use of a rope. The sheriff, Jackson, and the guard ran into the Knights cabin and closed the door. In a few moments the door was broken open and the cabin was filled with armed men. While the sheriff and guard quietly submitted to be held by the arms, the leader of the mob bound Jackson and led him away to a neighbor's house to wait till morning. The sheriff and guard returned to Buffalo. All of the night messengers were traveling over the several towns in that part of the county, calling the citizens to meet the next morning at Wallace's house.

On Monday, the 25th day of April 1859, many persons were wending their way to the Wallace house, representatives from at least four towns. Those who had the prisoner in charge arrived with him at noon. A stick of timber about twenty feet long and six inches in diameter was put into the gable-end of the house, one end resting on the upper floor, and the other end projecting out of the gable-end of the house about six feet, a rope was thrown over the end. In the meantime guards were placed around the small clearing to prevent surprise by what they supposed might be the friends of Jackson's.

When all was ready, the rope was fastened to Jackson's neck in a regular hangman's knot, and the leader said, "pull him up, we will make him confess." But after holding him up for some time until life was nearly extinct, he was let down and after reviving, he was asked: "Are you guilty of the murder of Wallace?" His answer was "No"; he was then asked about the rifle, watch and blanket-shawl. His answer was that he "did not know anything about them." About this time Mrs. Jackson made quite a sensation by rushing into the clearing in spite of the guards. She was soon caught and carried in an insensible condition toward her home. Jackson was then hauled up again. Just at that

time a shot was fired but a short distance from the clearing, and the leader shouted, "the rescuers are coming, pull him up." He was pulled up nearly to the beam; the leader took several turns of the rope around a projecting log, leaving five or six feet of slack rope. "Hands off" was the order, and the body of Jackson fell about five feet, breaking his neck, and the lynchers fled in all directions, and the dead body of Jackson was left until the next morning. On the morning of April 26th, Samuel Holdship, a brother of Mrs. Jackson, went to Buffalo and reported that the body of Jackson was hanging at the Wallace house. He was sent to Edward F. Tillotson, then living near Lake Pulaski on the Monticello road, who then held the office of deputy coroner. Tillotson summoned a coroner's jury and took down the body of Jackson and held an inquest. The verdict of the coroner's jury was that, "Oscar F. Jackson came to his death by hanging at the hands of some person or persons unknown to the jury." The body was taken in charge by Mrs. Jackson and her father and brothers, the Holdship family, and taken to Stillwater for burial, and the family left the county.

The hanging of Jackson by a mob, after he had an impartial trial, created quite a sensation throughout the State. The press very generally condemned the act, and all lovers of law and order were anxious that the lynchers should be brought to justice. And on the second of May the Governor of the State, Hom. H.H. Sibley, by proclamation offered a reward of five hundred dollars for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who participated in the hanging of Oscar F. Jackson on the 25th day of April 1859, at Rockford, Wright county, Minnesota. Thus matters rested until the 26th day of July 1859. At this time there was a celebration at Minnehaha Falls by the Sons of Malta, and as it was a very grand affair, many of the citizens of St. Paul and Minneapolis were present, and Aymer W. Moore, who was supposed to be one of the lynchers, was present. One of the Holdship boys, a brother of Mrs. Jackson, was also there and when he saw Moore he returned to public and made the following complaint:

STATE OF MINNESOTA, ss.
County of Ramsey.

Elizabeth Jackson being duly sworn doth say and complain, that on the 25th day of April A. D. 1859, in the county of Wright, in said state of Minnesota, Aymer W. Moore, of said county of Wright, without the authority of law and with malice aforethought, killed Oscar F. Jackson by hanging the said Jackson by the neck until the said Jackson was dead.

her
Elizabeth X Jackson.
mark

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of July, A.D. 1859.

Wm. A. Spencer.
Notary Public,
Ramsey County, Minnesota.

Gove. Sibley issued an order on the same day and on the above complaint, directing Chief of Police Corsely, of St. Paul, or the sheriff of Ramsey county, to arrest the said Aymer W. Moore and convey him to Wright county and deliver him to the proper authorities of said county, and also directed Attorney General Berry to proceed to Wright county and prosecute the case on the part

of the state. Accordingly Moore was taken into custody and Mrs. Jackson, her brother, Attorney General Berry, James R. Lawrence, district attorney, the sheriff and Moore started for Wright county. They arrived at Monticello, and Moore was delivered to the sheriff of Wright county. Hon. Samuel Bennett was the justice of the peace, but he resided some three miles from the village, and by the time he had been sent for the proper complaint and warrant made out it was night, and the justice court adjouned until morning. The prisoner was placed in the hands of Deputy Sheriff Blanchard, and as there was no jail in the county, the deputy sheriff took Moore to this house, and all waited until the following morning to continue the examination.

There were no telegraph lines at that time, or railroads or express. A weekly stage carrying the U. S. mail from Minneapolis to Rockford, and it was necessarily a very slow coach. But news sometimes, and especially on this occasion, traveled very fast, so that in a few hours after Moore's arrest at Minnehaha, it was known all over Rockford and Buffalo. It raised a great excitement as it was known that Moore was easily frightened. It was supposed that he would, to save himself, expose the whole gang; there was running to and fro and a great commotion. In the afternoon of the day that Moore was taken to Monticello, about thirty men from both towns met at a house in Buffalo near the Rockford town line and after arranging various disguises and preparing a large quantity of charcoal and burnt cork, started in squads of two and three for Monticello on different routes, agreeing to all meet together at a certain point not far from Monticello, just after dark. Just after nine o'clock that night a rap was heard at the door of the Blanchard mansion, the door was opened and in an instant the house was full of black men. Moore was found, the deputy sheriff was ordered to keep quiet or he would have trouble. Moore was taken away but a strong guard was kept in and around the house for about an hour and then they all left. Of course the deputy sheriff set up a hue and cry, but it was no use to try and follow them in the night. The whole village of Monticello chasing them over the prairie in the dark would avail nothing. But in the morning, the justice, Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Lawrence felt rather blue; and the attorney general was the worst beaten man that ever lived and his wrath knew no bounds; it was such an insult to his dignity. Immediately after the return of the attorney general to St. Paul the following proclamation was issued:

PROCLAMATION

By the Governor of the State of Minnesota:

For the first time in the history of the State it has become the stern and imperative duty of the executive of the State to employ a military force to suppress a combination against the laws in one of the counties in the State. Twice has an armed mob in Wright county outraged public sentiment, first by the unlawful hanging of Oscar F. Jackson after he had an impartial trial and had been acquited by a jury of that county, and subsequently on the 3rd inst., by rescuing an alledged participant in that crime from the civil authorities. To assert the majesty of the law and to sudue the spirit of ruffianism which had manifested itself by overt acts, prompt measures will be taken.

I, Henry H. Sibley, Governor of the State of Minnesota, in view of the fact that the civil officers of Wright county are perfectly powerless to enforce and execute the laws, do hereby declare the said county of Wright in a state of insurrection, and I enjoin upon all the good citizens of that and adjoining counties, that they lend their aid to suppress violence and disorder, and solomnly warn the actors in these outrages in Wright county, that any further attempts on their part of obstruct or resist the course of public justice will bring inevitable ruin on their own heads and may be desolation and misery on their families.

In testimony whereof I have herunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the State to be affixed this fifth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, and of the State the second.

By the Governor: Henry H. Sibley.

Francis Bassen,

Secretary of State.

That same day the Pioneer Guards, Capt. Western, by order of the commander-in-chief, started for Wright county by way of Anoka. The St. Paul papers of that day speak in great praise of Captain Western and his men, of the alacrity with which they got ready and started for the scenes of the late

outrages in Wright county. They numbered 42 men, rank and file, and were dressed in regulation army uniforms, armed with U. S. muskets and all carried revolvers besides. They went in large army wagons furnished by the quarter master general. The next day, August 6th, the Stillwater Guards, Captain Loomis, followed the Pioneer Guards, 45 men, the same equipments, uniforms, and army wagons. The same day the City Guards, 40 men, Captain O'Gorman, uniforms, black pants and blue flannel shirts, armed and equipped like the others. A St. Paul paper of that day says "they are a hardy set of boys and went off in high spirits." The whole under the command of Lieut. Col. John S. Prince, Col. Francis Baasen, acting adjutant general with assistants, Messrs. Simpson and Hunt. The adjutant general issued orders to the following companies to move the scene of action at a minute's notice:

Co. "D" 25th Regt., Capt. Crooks.
Co. "A" 13th Regt., Capt. French.
Co. "C" 25th Regt., Capt. Shaw.
Light Cav., 25th Regt., Capt. Starkey.

These seem to be rather warlike preparation to look at from this distance of time. But public sentiment all the through the State sanctioned it, and the newspapers unanimously said "crush out the rebellion at once, wipe out the outrages to law and justice," and two or three papers went so far as to say "if you have to wipe out Wright county." Afterwards political opponents blamed the governor for his war-like preparations, but he did only what he was obliged to do. If he had done less his opponents at that time would have said what a weak government. The Minnesotian, then Dr. Thomas Foster, editor, was the first to find fault with Gov. Sibley, because he did not offer a larger reward for the capture and conviction of the lynchers, and also because the governor did not send every man in the State into Wright county and destroy every living thing, and within a year began to complain of the useless expensive Wright county war, and blamed Gov. Sibley for the whole, when universal public sentiment demanded that he should do more than he did. The military were sent up the river to Monticello; the police force of about 35 men, led by Chief of Police Corsley of St. Paul, were sent out by the way of Rockford. They camped out one night near the village, but they did not make any arrests at the village. They looked around some but everybody was at work. If there were any rebels in the village the police did not find them;

they were probably out in the woods after ginseng or under a hay stack or up a tree. It is true that one who was implicated in the lynching business was watching the policemen from the close branches of a large elm tree in the center of the village all of the time they were looking around. The police force were a very quiet and gentlemanly sort of men and were somewhat disappointed in finding everybody at work, and not the slightest sign of the opposing force they expected to find at Rockford. So they passed on, closely watching for rebels but finding none, by the way of Buffalo, to report to head-quarters at Monticello. The police force and special constables made several arrests of supposed rebels, citizens of Rockford and Buffalo, but whether they were the real ones they were after is not known. Twenty-three persons in all were under charge of constables and special police in Monticello, but the soldiers did nothing, in fact there was nothing for them to do. The St. Paul police force reached Monticello without any mishaps and the whole force enjoyed themselves and had a good time generally. Occasionally they picked up some traveler and if he had ever been in Rockford or Buffalo he was held as a rebel. After the first excitement was over the county officers and other prominent men go together and held a conference with the state officers, both civil and military. Meanwhile the lynchers and rescuers were scattered all over the county or in the timber portion. One spent a week under a hay stack, another was hid in a corn field, another in a tamarack swamp, another in a cellar of a deserted cabin and a number of them took refuge on an island in Lake Beebe, in the southwest part of Frankfort, and their friends were feeding them and watching closely the soldiers and police. Hardly one of the culprits could be found, and as there was no show of resistance, the state officers began to talk of a settlement. The county officers and other citizens having promised that the offenders should be arrested and punished and as a proof of what they would, or could do, they agreed to arrest and deliver up to public justice three of the supposed offenders, if the military force would leave the county. This having been acceded to by the state authorities the sheriff went out into the timber and told them or a part of them, of the arrangements, and the persons named in the agreement, Aymer W. Moore, Hiram S. Angell and J. E. Jenks, went with him

to Monticello under arrest. At the justice court they waived examination and were held for appearance at the October term of the district court. Their bonds were fixed at $500 each, which was easily obtained, and they were set at liberty and the war was at an end.

The St. Paul Pioneer and Democrat of August 12th, 1859, says, "that the three companies of troops who were sent to Wright county on the 6th inst. by order of the Governor to enforce the laws, returned yesterday. The county authorities having stipulated that the laws in the future shall be observed, and having protested their ability to enforce the laws without the aid of the military." So the whole Wright county war lasted but five days. The troops were under arms and under pay not more than ten days at most. But if there had been less force there might have been a longer war. It might have been expected by some that the records would show a real war with the marching and counter marching of the armed forces, the charges and retreats, the bloody battles, the capture of the rebels. But ther is simply nothing, only like the short history of another bloodless war where it is said: "The king of France with forty thousand men Marched up the hill and then marched down again."

At the October term of the district court, 4th judicial district, held at Monticello, October 2, 1859, the grand jury received the usual charge from the judge. But they did not find that the laws had been broken or any outrages had been committed in Wright county; all had been peace, there was nothing to be looked after. Two of the county officers were anxious that the grand jury should adjourn as soon as possible and have the thing settled, and on the morning of the 4th of October they adjourned. Whether any one appeared before them is not known. But with the menace of prominent officials that it would not be safe for any of the friends of Jackson to show themselves in the county, probably no one appeared before the grand jury during the one day that they were in session. The names of the grand jurors were as follows:

A.C. Riggs, foreman.	Samuel Houlton,
I. C. Pickens,	F. Heyetter,
M. S. Taylor,	W. H. Helm,
J. W. Kirk,	Joseph Perkins,

O. S. Boyd,
Dana Hamlet,
A. E. Oakes,
O. H. Sheldon,
Benj. Ward,
H. F. Lillibridge,
H. W. Brookins,
Edwin Grant,
H. Nickerson,
John Spanding,
Charles Wedgewood,
A. Nickerson,
W. Garcelon,

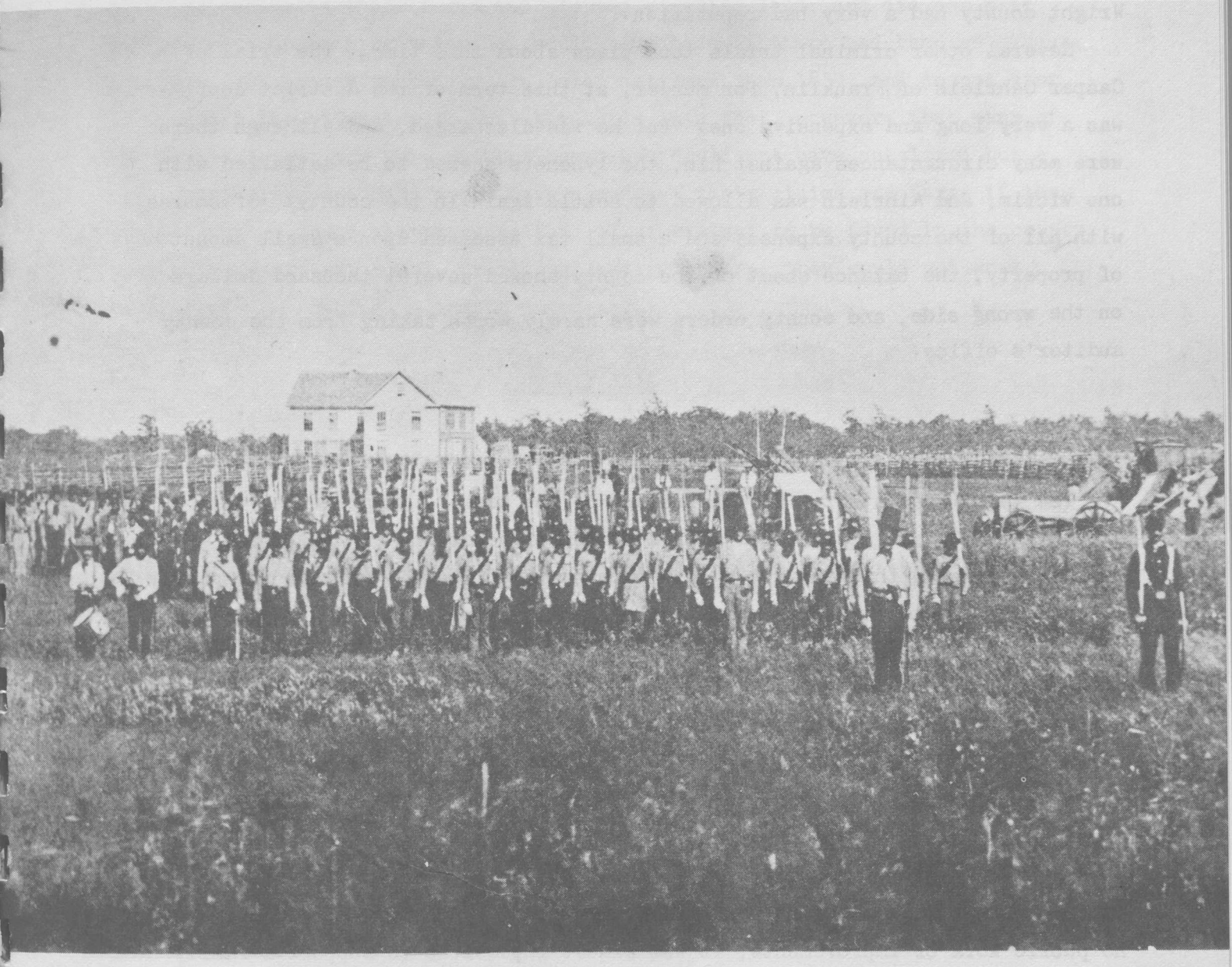
The following order was issued by the court, October 4th, 1859:

"Ordered by the court, that Aymer W. Moore, H. S. Angell and J. E. Jenks, be discharged from their recognizance, for the said Aymer W. Moore, H. S. Angell and J. E. Jenks having appeared before the grand jury at the October term of the court of the 4th judicial district at Monticello, Wright county, Minnesota, 1859, and they having appeared before said grand jury during the entire sitting of said grand jury and until said court was adjourned.

Now, therefore, the said Aymer W. Moore, H. S. Angell and J. E. Jenks are discharged according to law and their recognizances are hereby realeased."

Whether the above action on the part of the county officials and some other prominent men were in accordance with their solemn pledges to the state authorities is no part of this history, we only give the facts, the reader can form his own opinion. So closed in fact the "Wright county rebellion," but not the influence of this short period in the history of the county.

In the spring of 1877, Mr. August Roloff found the watch formerly owned by Wallace, while clearing up an old fence near the place where Jackson's house formerly stood, and in May, 1880, Frank Warner plowed up the remains of Wallace's rifle near the same place. They had evidently been buried by some person and that person was probably Jackson.



St. Paul Pioneer Guards at Monticello during the Wright County War.

Financially the county suffered and did not recover for years. The large expenses, especially in sheriff's fees and other county expenses, left the county woefully in debt, so that during the year 1860 county orders were only worth 35 cents on the dollar, and outside of the county virtually nothing, for Wright county had a very bad reputation.

Several other criminal trials took place about this time. The trial of Caspar Oehrlein of Franklin, for murder, at this term of the district court was a very long and expensive one. But he was discharged, and although there were many circumstances against him, the lynchers seemed to be satisfied with one victim, and Aihrlein was allowed to settle again in the county. Of course with all of the county expenses and a small tax assessed upon a small amount of property, the balance sheet of the county showed several thousand dollars on the wrong side, and county orders were hardly worth taking from the county auditor's office.

GINSENG

The year 1859 is noted for the advent of the ginseng buyers from West Virginia and Cincinnatti, Ohio. For a number of years the ginseng trade had been carried on with China, by a few merchants in Philedelphia, and the supply of the article had been from West Virginia and eastern Kentucky, but the roots were growing less and less each year. Several persons had moved from Virginia into this county, and reported to friends at home that ginseng was quite plenty here. This information brought out Col. Robert Blaine of West Virginia, an old ginseng buyer, who commenced to deal in the article and pay cash, which had been rather a scarce commodity for two years. As there had been very small crops raised and very low prices for all farm products on account of no home market, and no railroads or other means of transportation to an eastern market, and also on account of very little lumbering or building and no public work or improvements, it was almost impossible to support a family in the big woods, and many would have been obliged to leave or starve. But as soon as the ginseng trade opened, everything was changed.

Prosperity and plenty followed the trade of the ginseng buyers. They established agents in nearly every town, and men, women and children turned their attention to digging roots; paid for their lands, and in everything

seemed prosperous and happy when a few months before all had been dark and dreary. It has often been said, since that time that the ginseng business was not a benefit to Wright county, but that it was an actual injury; that the early settlers neglected their farms and stopped clearing land, and did not make the progress in farming that they would have made if there had been no ginseng business. But these reasoners are later settlers than 1859, and do not stop to consider the situation at that time. It is a fact, however, that many of the earliest settlers were without means and could not have subsisted but a very short time, and many would have abandoned their claims and farms if they could not have found temporary relief. That was not to be found in the county poor fund; there was none. Credit was entirely gone; they could not work their farms on nothing. Ginseng saved them.

COUNTY JAIL

At a meeting of the board of county commissioners held July 15, 1859, it was voted that a county jail be erected at a cost of not more than $1,500, and that the county building committee have full power to make contracts and build said jail, to be paid in Wright county bonds, bearing interest at 12 percent.

September 15th, 1859, the board of county commissioners voted to issue the jail bonds, to be left in the hands of the county auditor, except three hundred dollars to be paid to the contractor at present. Although the contract price for the jail was $1,500, before it was finished it cost very near $2,500. The jail was built a few rods northwest of the Academy building in the village of Monticello on the land deeded to the county by Smith and Brown, who were proprietors in part of the village property, with the proviso, in the deed, that the land should belong to the county only as long as the same was used for county purposes. Accordingly, when in after years the county seat was removed to Buffalo, the county jail fell into the hands of the original owners of the land. The jail was about 20 x 24 feet and built of hewed tamarack logs, sided on the outside and lathed and plastered inside with six cells and a hall running through the center. Very few prisoners were ever confined in the jail. At the present time it stands out there alone, a monument of money

wasted, and has never been used for other purposes since it fell into the hands of the original owners of the land thirteen years ago. The board of county commissioners, composed of the chairmen of the boards of town supervisors of the several towns in the county, has been called a county legislature, for very good reasons. It was a very expensive form of government. There were at least 12 men and many of them were not acquainted with county affairs, and about the time that they had began to understand the business, another town election would elect another man as chairman, and the board of commissioners would know just as much as they did the year previous, so that improvement was impossible. They had meetings very often and very long sessions, but did not accomplish very much. In 1860, the law was changed; and the board of county commissioners were elected by the county at large, consisting of five commissioners. In 1861 the county was divided into three commissioner districts, and the three commissioners elected were Isaac Hager, A. E. Oakes and D. R. Farnham.

WRIGHT COUNTY IN THE WAR OF 1861

When President Lincoln in April 1861, called for 75,000 soldiers for three months, about twenty volunteered from this county, and during the next year very many enlisted in the first, second, third, fourth,fifth and sixth regiments, and in the cavalry and artillery; their names will be given in the history of the several towns. Several towns in the county were not subjected to any draft on account of the enlistments, but after the battle before Richmond in 1862, and the retreat of McClellan, President Lincoln called for 600,000 more. Wright county responded to the call and said, "we are coming Father Abraham." On the 12th of August 1862, a meeting was called at the Academy building, Monticello, and representative men from each town were present, and although there had not been any bounties given or offered by the county, at this meeting it was resolved that Wright county should offer a bounty to soldiers of twenty-five dollars, to all who would enlist and thus save a draft. At a special meeting of the board of county commissioners held at Monticello, August 12, 1862, the following resolution

was adopted:

"Resolved, that we according to resolutions passed by the citizens of Wright county, in convention assembled this day at Monticello, issue orders bearing legal interest for the sum of Twenty-five dollars cash, to the supervisors of each town in the county, equal to the number of Wright county volunteers presented by each town, and who shall not have received any bounty from any other county or town; and provided, that this resolution shall not apply to any person who has enlisted in the service of the United States previous to August 1, 1862."

ISAAC HAGER,
Chairman.
J.W. MULVEY,
County Auditor.

By this act of the board of county commissioners, 87 orders were given to men, who enlisted in Co. E, of the 8th regiment of Minn. Vol. Infantry, amounting to $2, 175. Co. E. was organized or commenced its organization on August 12, 1862, and as it was the only Wright county company, its history is a part of the history of Wright county, and not of any particular town.

HISTORY OF COMPANY E OF THE 8th REGIMENT OF MINN. VOL. INFANTRY, WRIGHT COUNTY, MINN.

The company, after hearty congratulations and cheering parting words from friends at Monticello, went to Fort Snelling, where they took their first meal at Uncle Sam's expense, on August 14th, 1862, consisting of sour bread, sour bean soup and a muddy compound called coffee, which it is said was the worst meal furnished to the company for the three years. Then they began army life, and were examined by Dr. Potts, and sworn in. On the same day they elected their company officers as follows:

Captain-Edward Hartley, Monticello.
1st Lieutenant-Micha Cromwell, Monticello.
2nd Lieut.-Harvey S. Brookins, Silver Creek.
1st Sergeant-Thoman Tollington, Clearwater.

SERGEANTS

Edward Woodworth, Clearwater.
James F. Bradley, Minneapolis.
John B. Parvin, Monticello.
Albert F. Barker, Monticello.

CORPORALS

Asel E. Hulett, Siver Creek.
Charles E. Post, Monticello.
William H. Lord, Monticello.
Henry W. Fuller, Orono.
Charles L. Smith, Monticello.
Emerson T. Woodward, Richfield.
William H. Houlton, Monticello.
George W. Carpenter, Silver Creek.

PRIVATES

William D. Lane, Musician, Minneapolis.
Charles W. Merrill, Musician, Monticello.
Thomas Anerson, Wagoner, Monticello.
John Albright, Monticello.
James Ambler, Buffalo.
Christopher ll Bailey, Monticello.
William F. Bagley, St. Anthony.
Michael Batterburg, Maple Lake.
Andrew H. Bertram, Monticello.
John J. Boyd, Monticello.
Edward P. Bradbiru, Clearwater.
Henry S. Braughton, Clearwater.
Milton B. Brown, Monticello.
Alonzo Bryant, Monticello.

George T. Campbell, Lynden.
Lewis L. Chaflin, Monticello.
Franklin W. Clifford, Clearwater.
Dexter E. Collins, Silver Creek.
Henry R. Crawford, Monticello.
William Dallas, Lynden.
John W. Day, Orono.
Daniel Desmond, Monticello.
Timothy Desmond, Monticello.
Thomas I. Dill, Big Lake.
Joseph Duprey, Albion.
William Eberman, Clearwater.
Charles G. Ells, Clearwater.
Albert Erath, Buffalo.
Herman Erath, Buffalo.
Albert C. Fairbrother, Monticello.
John H. Felch, Elk River.
Nicholas Flynn, Buffalo.
Joseph I. Fisher, Monticello.
Charles H. Gibbs, Clearwater.
Lewis Gayette, Buffalo.
John Hartley, Monticello.
Henry C. Helm, Monticello.
Randolph Holding, Clearwater.
Debering Holgate, Elk River.
Daniel W. Kreidler, Rockford,
George W. Kreidler, Rockford.
Samuel G. Kreidler, Rockford.
David L Kingsbury, Monticello.
Joseph N. Locke, Silver Creek.
Martin Lord, Monticello.
John Louisiana, Rockford.
John W. Lyons, Clearwater.

Homer Markham, Clearwater.
William McPherson, Buffalo.
Henry A. Mitchell, Monticello.
Mathew Murphy, Clearwater.
Alphonzo Nicherson, Monticello.
Ellett P. Parcher, Lynden.
Frank M. Parcher, Lynden.
Joseph Perkins, Monticello.
John D. Ponsford, Clearwater.
Amid E. Philbrook, Monticello.
Ellisha C. Sabin, Silver Creek.
John Swain, Monticello.
Cramer Swartont, Woodland.
George Tourtellotte, Orono.
Joseph Vadner, Jr. Maple Lake.
Charles H. Vorse, Lynden.
Edson D. Washburne, Otsego.
Elbridge F. Washburne, Otsego.
George R. L.Wedgewood, Monticello.
Samuel Wilder, Monticello.

In a few days after the company was organized the Sioux massacre took place and the Indian war followed. Company "E," was sent to Monticello to protect citizens and property as the excitement was very great and the county was nearly depopulated. After the excitement was over, the company returned to Fort Snelling, when they received their Austrian rifles and were mustered into the service of the United States, and in November, received orders to proceed to Fort Ripley for winter quarters, where they spent a very comfortable winter with very little to do, just drilling enough for exercise. The next spring they were sent to Paynesville. About one year was spent at Paynesville, but not the whole company. Squads were sent out scouting, and several squads were in Wright county the summer of 1863; one was sent to Silver Creek, under charge of Serg't J. B. Parvin, and were stopping at the

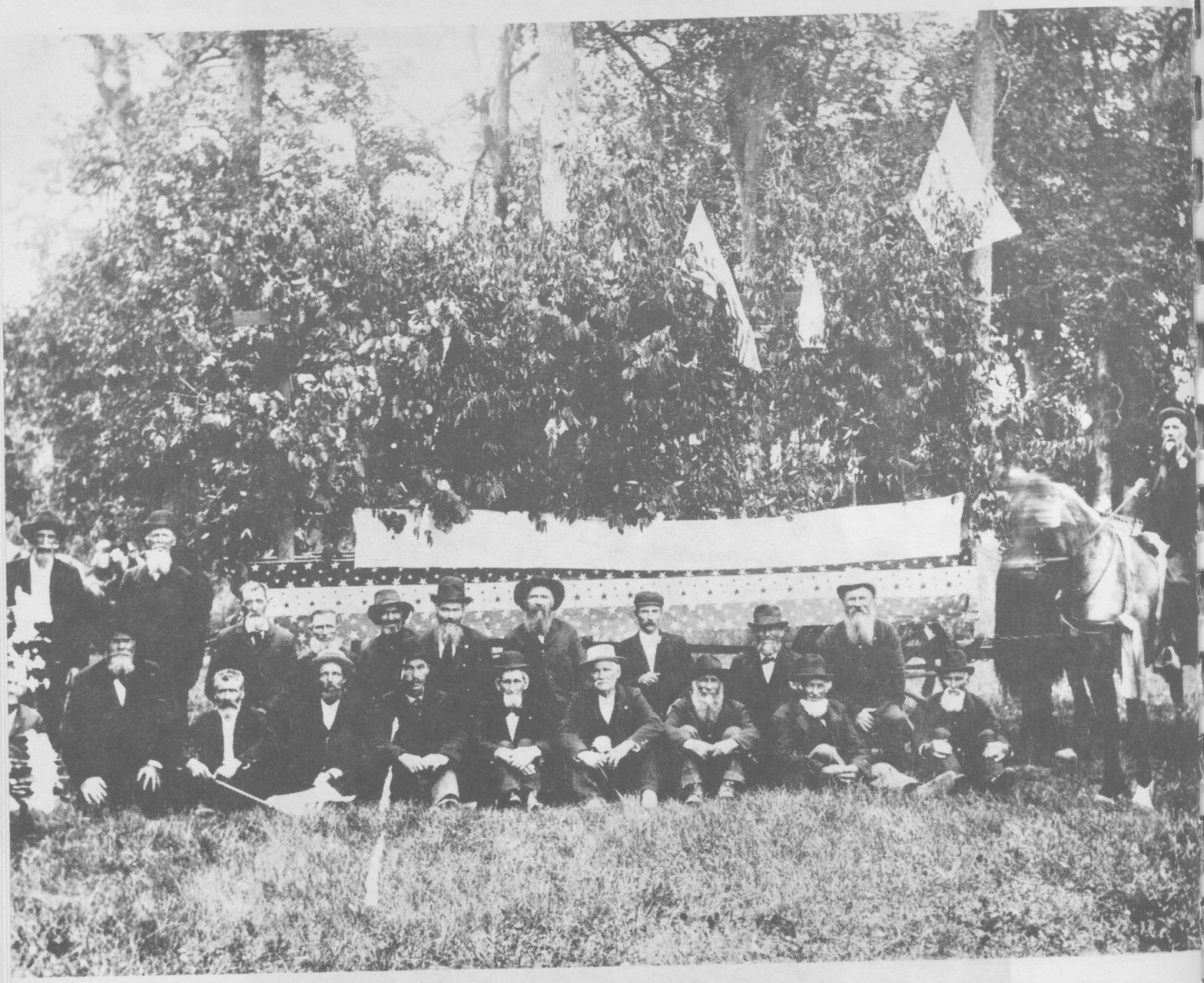
house of Joseph Locke, on the first day of August 1863, when by an accident Christopher 1. Bailey was shot by A. H. Bertram. Bertram was going to the spring for water, when he saw what he supposed to be a bear in the bush, and ran back to the house and got his Springfield musket and shot at what he supposed to be a bear, as the bush was very thick he could not see clearly. There had been stories of bears in that vicinity, and Bailey in a playful mood had gone into the bush just before Bertram went to the spring, and by getting down on all fours and growling like a bear, had instead of frightening Bertram, lost his life. Bailey was a great favorite in his company, and his sad death was lamented and mourned by many, but public opinion settled down upon the fact that it was purely accidently. In the spring of 1864, the company was mounted and went with Gen. Alfred Sulley, across the plains after Indians.

They crossed the Missouri River at Fort Rice, about the 4th of July 1864. On the 18th of July they struck directly west on the Heart River, 125 miles west of Fort Rice and 75 miles north of Heart River, they had a battle with the Sioux. The Indians were put to route and a large amount of stores destroyed together with the tents of a large village. In this campaign, Company E did good and efficient service and were given due credit. On the 12th of August they reached the Yellow Stone River where they were supplied by steamboats with full rations. They had been subsisting on half rations for many days. On their return down the Missouri to Fort Rice, they received order to return to Fort Snelling, and after turning over horses and cavalry equipments, to proceed immediately south. They reached Fort Snelling late in October, and about the 4th of November started south. Transportation was not at that time sufficient for all soldiers moving south, and Company E. suffered from exposure both on the Mississippi River in flat boats and barges exposed to the storms, and on the railroads in cattle cars. But they finally arrived at Nashville, Tenn., and were sent out to Murfreesboro and went into camp near the Shelbyville pike, after suffering many deprivations at Murfreesboro and Fort Rosecranz. In the morning of December 7th they started with many other regiments to meet the rebel army under Hood. They participated in the two days battle, were in the front and did good service. In this battle, the battle of the Cedars, Ellett F. Parcher and Elbridge F. Washburne were killed, and F. M. Parcher, G. R. L. Wedgewood and Thomas Anderson were

wounded. After the defeat of Hood's army, Company E together with the 8th and other regiments were ordered to North Carolina. They went by the way of the Tennessee and Ohio rivers to Wheeling, then by rail to Washington, D.C., where they arrived about the first of February, 1865. They arrived at Wilmington, North Carolina, a few days after Fort Fisher had surrendered; from there they were ordered to Beaufort, then to Newbern, then to Goldsboro. At about this time, news came that Richmond was taken, and of course there was great rejoicing. Many of the boys made themselves hoarse with shouting. They were engaged in several skirmishes in North Carolina, and were finally stationed at Charlotte, until the middle of July 1865, when they were ordered home, where they arrived about the last of July. After a splendid reception at St. Paul, and a public dinner at the state house, a cordial greeting at Monticello, the company separated, only to meet at their annual re-unions on the 7th of December, the anniversary of the battle of the Cedars in Tennessee.



Captain James Sturges of the First Company of Minnesota Scouts.



A gathering of Civil War veterans in Rockford.

THE INDIAN SCARE

Very soon after the organization of Company E, there was a call for home guards. The company was organized on the 12th day of August. On the 20th of the same month, the report came of the Indian outrages, and the killing of Jones and the Bakers at Acton, Meeker county, on the 17th, and the massacre of the settlers on the upper Minnesota, at Yellow Medicine, and other points. As the reports were very much exaggerated, it created the greatest commotion imaginable, and as it was currently reported that the Indians had murdered nearly all of the inhabitants of Meeker county, and were moving east in large forces through Wright county, the panic stricken settlers left everything and fled. Attempts were made by brave men to stop the flight, but in vain; like frightened animals, they would hear to nothing. Reason and common sense were entirely forgotten; in their headlong flight they could not be stayed. Day and night the roads leading to Minneapolis were filled with hurrying multitudes only anxious to escape from the merciless savage, who in their opinion were but a short distance behind, killing, burning, and destroying everything within their reach. And to add fuel to the flame various persons with a very imaginative temperament were continually circulating the information that they had seen the savages at no great distance; that Waverly was burned and the people all butchered; that Buffalo was the scene of blood; and that the whole west part of the county was being over run with the Indians; and the only hope was to get to Minneapolis, St. Paul or Fort Snelling to escape the merciless tomahawk or scalping knife of the infuriated Sioux, until there was a clean sweep, and not a family left in the big woods between Fort City and Buffalo, or Monticello and Rockford. Of course, there were a few brave men who sent out their families and went back to their cabins in the woods, but they were very few and the days and weeks were spent in watching hiding places, in dodging from one tree to another, without any shelter in storms, not daring to stop in the cabins by night or day; and many days without food was anything but pleasant.

The Indian scare in Wright county was much worse than in any other county in the State, except a part of Hennepin, and a part of Carver, for the reason that in the timber the settlers had at that time small clearings and each

settler was comparatively alone and isolated from all others, and the idea prevailed that the Indians could or would come unaware on the family, and that would be the fatal and horrible end. There was really no such thing as watching or placing guards, and the first move was to get out. Attempts were made to check the tide of frightened settlers at Rockford, Buffalo and Monticello, but for a few days without avail. Soon the excitement died out in a measure, and fleeing settlers would hear to some reason, and stands were made both at Monticello and Rockford. Stockades were built and the emigration stayed; every house, shop, store and barn was filled with the settlers from the west part of the county. Military law was established, every man and boy became a soldier and was nightly put on guard. The state government furnished ammunition and sent into the county two or three hundred of those celebrated Belgian muskets which can at the present time be found in many families, or stowed away in the garret of some obscure building; the only thing they are good for, or ever were, is to remind us of the great Indian scare of 1862. Slowly and carefully many of the settlers returned to their abandoned cabins during the fall of that year to find that the crops had been ruined during their absence, and as the Indian war seemed to be at an end, at least in this part of the State, a feeling of security returned. Forts, and **stockades** were abandoned, families returned to their homes, and the old Belgian musket was exchanged for the implements of husbandry. But many of the settlers who had found their way to the cities with their families returned no more and the homes in the big woods knew them not again. The land was sold to other parties, or the homestead was abandoned, and in after years other settlers came and the claims or the homesteads fell into other hands. One Indian scare was enough for at least one third part of the first settlers in the west part of Wright county.

In the spring of 1863 some new settlers came, and a few old ones returned. The forts were demolished, and soon the desolating effects of the Indian scare of 1862 were very nearly obliterated, and all was quiet, peace and prosperity.

During the years 1858 and 1859, several bands of Indians were in the county and amongst them Medicine Bottle's band. They camped near the Dustins, near the north fork of Crow River, the greater part of one winter, and had

considerable trade with the Dustins, by buying grain and flour and other eatables, and it may be drinkables, and by selling moccasins, skins, furs and a couple of ponies. During the early summer of 1863, the Dustins sold out their place to Mr. Beatle, and the boys went up to Mooers Prairie, now Stockholm, and took a claim in the south part of the town near Collinwood. They built a house, and two of the boys stayed there, while Amos went to their former home in Marysville, to bring up his mother, Mrs. Jennette Dustin age 54 years, and his wife Mrs. Kate Miller Dustin age 24 years; also three children, Almeda Dustin age 6 years, Robert Dustin age 4 years, and Leon Dustin aged 2 years. They started from their old home on the morning of the 29th of June, 1863, with their household goods and chattels, six persons in all, with a yoke of oxen and a wagon, for their new home in Stockholm. They went by the way of Waverly, and about noon stopped for a short time at the house of Aaron E. Cochran, on the northwest quarter of section 2, now in the town of Victor, and owned and occupied by Joseph Pearson. They traveled west on the old Mooers Prairie road, which ran south of Smith Lake. When they were about two and a half miles west of what is now the village of Howard Lake and near the east end of Smith Lake, and all of them riding in the wagon, five Indians suddenly made their appearance; they were painted nearly black, with black streaks all over their faces, and were dressed in black rubber coats, and no blankets. How they happened to wear rubber coats is explained by the fact that the previous year the same band had assisted in plundering the stores at the upper agency on the Minnesota river. Or Mrs. Kate Dustin and the little girl might have been mistaken in the dress of the Indians; they might possibly have not had on any clothing, or at least no coats, but both said that the Indians had on shining coats like rubber. The Indians ran along on each side of the oxen for several rods and seemed to hurry up the team. The wagon ran over a log by the side of the road and the oxen were nearly on a run, as the tail board of the wagon was found in the road about four rods from where the wagon stopped. In hurrying the oxen they went out of the road and one of the forward wheels striking a small tree the wagon tongue was broken and the oxen went into the woods. The Indians who were armed with bows and arrows, war clubs and knives, but no guns or pistols, commenced the work of slaughter by shooting several arrows at Amos Dustin. One Indian with a war club, or

as Kate Dustin said, an iron bludgeon, struck him several times, making horrible wounds, and he was dead in a very short time. In the meantime, the other Indians had cut off the hands of Mrs. Jenette Dustin, and with one blow with a large knife cut off her nose and lips. They then shot her with several arrows. The little girl had dropped down under the seat when the shooting commenced, and her father's body falling partly over her, the savages did not see her, or at least did not take any notice of her. The four year old boy gave a loud wild scream when his father was first struck, and the Indians shot an arrow completely through him, killing him instantly. At the same time Mrs. Kate Dustin uttered a cry of terror, when an Indian who was behind the wagon, shot her in the back, the arrow going through the body, the point of the arrow head projecting about half an inch below the breast bone, where it remained. Two of the savages then took her out of the wagon and beat her with a hickory stick, striking her many blows. They took the youngest boy out of the wagon and tossed him into a bunch or thicket of nettles beside the road. They then took the bed clothers and some groceries and provisions. They cut open the feather bed, emptied out the feathers amd took the tick. While this was going on one of the savages cut the old lady in a horrible manner, taking out her heart and putting it on the end of a stick.

The Indians then went up the road and Mrs. Kate Dustin was left with her two children, wounded in the shoulder by an arrow that could not be removed, and that other fatal arrow through her body, her little girl covered with her father's blood and nearly dead from fright. What was to be done? With tottering steps, with her two children, she started to go back to Cochran's covered with blood and suffering intense pain, with the mosquitoes so thick she could scarcely see. It is no wonder that when it became dark (as it was late in the afternoon when the murder took place) she should lose the road and wonder away, and at last after spending most of the night in a hopeless attempt to find the road, lay down to die.

The oxen returned to Mr. Cochran's near night, and he supposing the Dustin's had turned them out to feed, and they had run away, put them into his yard, supposing that Mr. Dustin would come for them in a short time. But the next morning as he had some business at Waverly, he started very early and told Mr. A. D. Kingsley and Henry Lammers that Dustin's oxen had

come back the night before, and that they had better go out to Mooers Prairie and see what was the matter. For a while they did not think it was necessary, as the oxen had probably strayed away. But after talking the matter over, the idea of mischief by Indians was suggested, and the three started. They took dinner at Cochran's and about two o'clock in the afternoon started out to look for the Dustins. When about a mile west of the Goodsell place, now in the village of Howard Lake, Mr. Cochran called the attention of the others to the grass around the foot of a large oak tree beside the road, where several persons must have recently been sitting with their backs to the tree; and while they were looking at it, the best grass was springing back to its place showing conclusively that whoever they were, they had left but a few minutes before. The first exclamation of Cochran was Indians; the others though it might be hunters, travelers or some wild beasts. But they passed along the road only a short distance, where the road had been washed by recent rains, and there in the sand was the unmistakable sign, the moccasin track, one following the other. Very few men in the career of a long and eventful life can possibly occupy a more dangerous and critical position than these three men did at this moment. Knowing as they did, all the habits and customs of the wily savage when on the war path. They did not know the number of the savages it is true, but they had every reason to believe it was a large party, and at that moment the deadly rifle might be pointed at each of them. An unseen and certain foe is infinitely more to be feared than a host of enemies in sight. To proceed seemed certain death, to retreat was not much better, and as they stood there for a few moments in silence, a low moan or wail came from the south, and again the moan was heard. One said, that it was a human voice; another said, it is a bird; another said, it is a sound made by the Indians to lead us into the thick brush around the meadow. Again the moan was heard a little louder than before, borne to their ears by a fresh breeze from the south. "That is a human voice" said Mr. Cochran, "and I am going to see who it is." And with his rifle cocked by his side, and with the cautious agility and soft step of a cat, he started directly towards the sound. Lammers and Kingsley went alongthe road about 50 rods, then having concluded that it was a human voice, they followed. Cochran, after dodging from tree to tree, and watching

every motion and sound, came in sight of the meadow. Fifty or sixty rods from the road across the meadow he discovered something moving in the tall grass, which after careful watching for sometime, he found to be the heads of two children, running up and down in the tall grass, a few rods from the timber. His first thought was that the children had been placed in the open meadow by the Indians as a decoy, and that they were watching for any one who would go to them. But after waiting for a few minutes and seeing nothing of Indians, he concluded to work his way carefully around the head of the meadow where the children were. He kept his eyes steadily on them and was making his way around the meadow, when he came within a few feet of Mrs. Kate Dustin, in almost unconcious state, lying on the ground covered with blood, and the warm weather of 24 hours had rendered her a sickening sight. She was unable to move, and could only say, "they are all killed in the wagon by the Indians." Mr. Lammers and Mr. Kingsley were called, and while Mr. Kingsley went to Cochran's for his oxen and wagon, Mr. Cochran and Mr. Lammer took her up carefully and carried her out to the road, and when the team came, took her with the children to Cochran's house. One man was immediately sent to Watertown, and another to Rockford, to give the alarm, and also to get a doctor and help. Aaron E. Cochran and A. G. Sexton started for Mooers Prairie by the way of Cokato Mills, to notify the settlers that the Indians were on the war path in the big woods.

The messenger arrived in Rockford at about 12 o'clock at night. Mr. John Knights was called up, and he immediately went to work and by sunrise the next morning was ready to start for Smith Lake. Mr. G. F. Ames went with his team. Dr. J. S. Richardson, John Woodward, Miner W. Shultes, Wesley Powers, Jason Edgar, J. R. Ames, N. D. Sperry, Wm. Rutherford, Martin Bisky, Sr., Moses Ripley and others started for the scene of the massacre.

At Waverly they met the people from Watertown. On arriving at the place, the bodies were taken from the wagon and placed in roughtly made coffins, and conveyed to Waverly where they now lie buried. Mr. G. F. Ames went to Mooers Prairie and assisted in removing the settlers to Rockford with all their household effects and cattle.

Mrs. Kate Dustin had received a fatal wound, and although she received the best care at Mr. Cochran's and the best medical attention, she died on

the morning of July 3rd, and was buried with the others of the family at Waverly. Nathan M. Dustin died in 1864 near Waverly, Dallas Dustin is in Colorado, Timothy Dustin and Belle, live near Waverly. The little girl was adopted by Mrs. Parker of East Minneapolis, and is now married and resides in Minneapolish. The little boy who was thrown into the nettles, is now a clerk in a store in Minneapolis.

The camp of the Indians was found about three quarters of a mile south of where the Dustin family were killed. From all appearances they had stopped there several days, and there were fourteen of them, and they were seen on the shore of Howard Lake to the same Number. Also on the same day they were seen near the old Dustin farm, and there were fourteen of them.

They had only one horse and were probably looking after horses, as they had lost nearly all of their ponies the previous year.

When on the 30th of June the whole county was aroused, astonished and amazed at the report that a family had been murdered by the Indians, in the west part of the county. This was no false rumor. The Dustin family had been murdered near Smith Lake, by a party of Indians, and the news was the signal for another exodus, worse if possible than the first. The whole population started at once, and it seemed for a time as if nothing could stop them. The roads to St. Paul and Minneapolis were filled with a motley mass of human beings interspersed with cattle, horses, sheep and hogs, all in one seething mass hurrying, running and all anxious to reach a place of safety; it was impossible to check them. The fact that the Indians were in the timber was enough; no reasoning or persuasion could stop the avalanche for a short time. But in a few days reason returned, and the efforts made at Rockford and Monticello again stopped the frightened settlers, and the tide of bewildered crazy fugitives were forced to reason on the subject. Forts and stockades were quickly built in many places, and although, as in the previous year, many frightful stories were told, the excitement died out in a short time, and many returned to their homes to find their crops ruined, their fields laid waste, and their prospects for future happy and prosperous homes entirely blasted. So another large number of the first settlers were obliged to leave the county.

THE DUSTIN FAMILY

Mrs. Jeannette Dustin, a widow, came to Minnesota in the spring of 1857, from New York. The family consisted of four sons, Amos Dustin, Nathan M. Dustin, Timothy Dustin and Dallas Dustin, the youngest about 16 years old, and two daughters, one the wife of Amos D. Kingsley, and Belle Dustin, about 12 years old. They took a pre-emption claim on the southeast quarter of section 24, township No. 119 of range 26, in the present town of Marysville, near the Franklin town line, which they improved and occupied until the summer of 1863, when they sold out to Mr. David Beatle. The farm is now owned and occupied by Joseph Bland.

THE MASSACRE OF THE DUSTIN FAMILY

Editor Eagle: - I notice in your issue of the 3rd inst. a copy of a petition to the Legislature to erect a monument to the members of the Dustin family who were murdered by the Indians in the summer of 1863. The petition fails to recite the facts in the case, and is incorrect in several particulars.

The Dustin family consisted of Amos Dustin, his wife, three children, one a girl of about seven years, two boys, the oldest four or five, the youngest two years of age, and an old lady, the widowed mother of Mr. Dustin.

I find by reference to an old diary kept by me in 1863, that the date of the massacre was Monday, the 29th day of June, 1863. Mr. Dustin, his mother and the oldest boy were killed at the time, and Mrs. Dustin (the wife) mortally wounded, so that she died on the 3rd of July, four days after. I saw Mrs. Dustin two days before she died at the house of Aaron Cochran Esq., and the account of the tragedy was derived from her, other particulars from Mr. Cochran at the time.

Mr. Cochran stated that they passed his house in the forenoon on Monday, and after calling for a few minutes proceeded on their way to their home on Mooer's Prairie. Mr. Dustin's team was a yoke of cattle. Late in the afternoon of the same day, the team without the wagon returned, and Mr. Cochran thinking that they had got away from them while taking their dinner, stopped the cattle and put them into his pasture. In the morning, as Mr. Dustin had

not returned for his team, Mr. Cochran and another party took the oxen and went up the road to find out what was the matter, when passing near a marsh just west of Howard Lake, they heard groans as of someone in distress, and proceeding in the direction of the sound, found Mrs. Dustin badly wounded, and two of her children, the oldest and the youngest. She and her children were taken back to the house of Mr. Cochran and cared for and a surgeon sent for.

The account that she gave, as near as my recollection serves me was as follows: They were proceeding on their way to their home (following the old Forest City road which ran on the south side of Smith Lake) and when about a mile and a half west of Howard Lake, five Indians came into the road some four or five rods in advance, and came running towards them. One of the Indians turned the cattle out of the road, and the fore wheel of the wagon striking a tree, came to a standstill, and the Indians immediately commenced shooting Mr. Dustin with arrows, they having no guns with them. Mr. Dustin made no effort to defend himself although he had a double barrel gun well charged by his side, but sat as if paralyzed by fear. The little girl crept down under the seat and her father falling over her, shielded her from sight, the oldest boy cried and was immediately dispatched; they then attacked the old lady with knives and she defended herself to the best of her ability with her cane to the last. The Indians then took the youngest child out of the wagon and sat him on the ground, but did not harm him. Mrs. Dustin was leaning forward, her face on her hands and a groan escaping her, one of the Indians came behind her and shot an arrow into her back between the shoulders, the head of the arrow penetrating and projecting through the gristle of the breast bone about an inch, and remaining in the wound, she fell forward, and the Indians probably thinking her dead, left. After they were gone Mrs. Dustin took her two remaining children and started back, but her strength failing, she stopped near the marsh where she was found on the following day. The settlers gathered together, the bodies were removed and buried in the old cemetery at Waverly Mills. Mr. Kingsley then proprietor, being a brother-in-law of Mr. Dustin.

Mrs. Dustin stated that but four of the Indians took part in the killing,

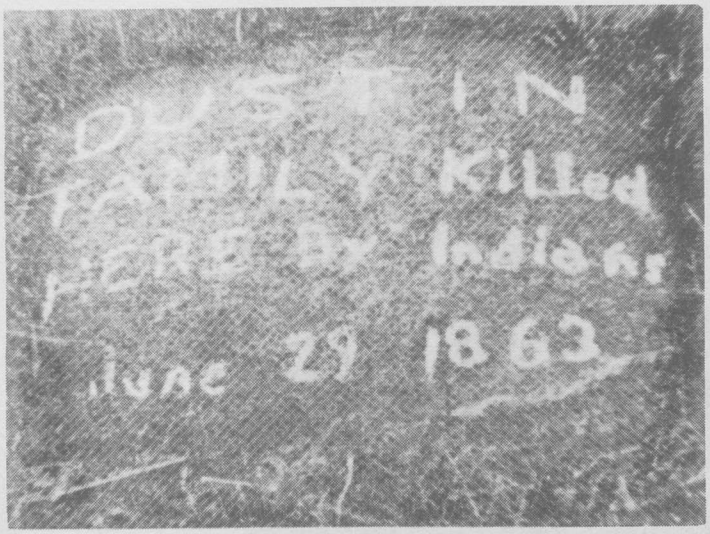
the fifth one standing back and giving orders by motions, this one, the chief, proved afterwards to be Medicine Bottle, not Little Crow. Little Crow and his son had gone in the direction of Hutchinson, and this band was under the command of Medicine Bottle, they had their camp a short distance to the south and west of the place where they killed the Dustins, and had been camped there for some time, hunting in the vicinity; they immediately decamped, taking a southeasterly course, camping on section 13, in the town of Victor. The night following, they crossed the south fork of Crow river between Watertown and Delano, passing to the east of Greenwood, north of Minnetonka, to Minne-ha-ha falls, and after satisfying themselves that the Indian prisoners had been removed from Fort Snelling, they passed up the Minnesota and down Red river to Manitoba.



Mrs. Amos (Kate) Dustin



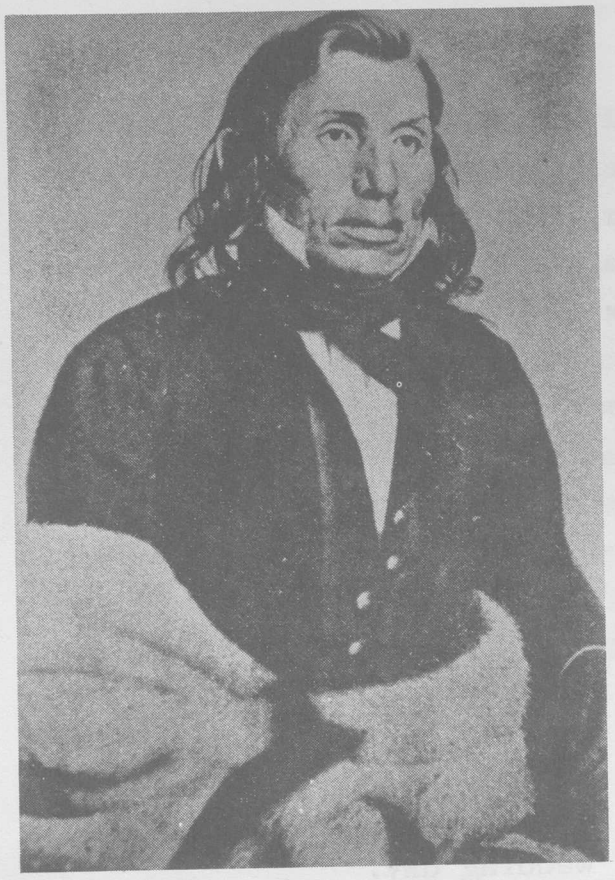
Alma Dora Dustin on her wedding day.



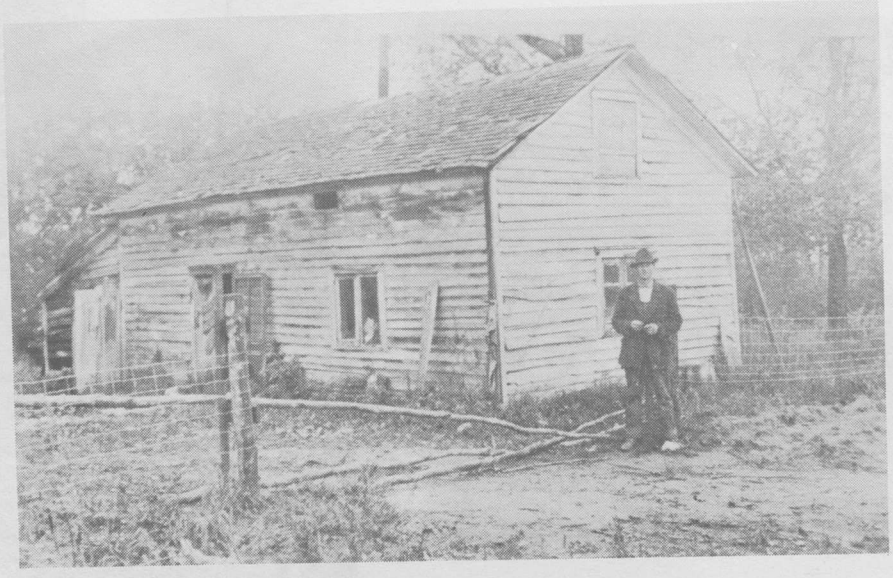
Rock marking site of massacre.



Original burial site of Dustin family at Waverly Mills.



Chief Little Crow - up until the time of the Indian uprising, he had been working for peace with the white man.



The Peterson log home four miles south of Delano shows openings in the sides to be used in fighting off attacking Indians.

THE DUSTIN FAMILY

Regarding the massacre of the Dustin family by a party of Indians in 1863, Mr. A.E. Cochran of Smith Lake, one of the early settlers in that locality, who is doubtless familiar with facts and circumstances connected with that horrible affair, perhaps not generally known, favors us with the following information concerning the death of Mrs. Dustin, the number of persons murdered, etc. Mr. Cochran writes:

"I see in your paper of to-day (Feb. 3rd) you was erroneously informed concerning the Dustin family murdered in the town of Middleville in 1863. There were four persons murdered, the old lady, her son and her son's wife and her son, a small boy,and all were buried at Old Waverly, near the outlet of Waverly lake. The place where they were murdered is yet plain, and is well known to me; it is southeast of Smith lake, about a quarter of a mile; also the place near Howard were the wounded Mrs. Dustin was found, and her two small children. She afterwards died and was taken to the same place for burial. I was there at the time, and myself and Henry Lammers and A.D. Kingsley took her to my house where I took the dart (Indian arrow) from her breast, but she died; it had went through her stomach.

THE FAMINE OF 1867

During the Indian troubles many of the settlers in the west part of the county left, and nearly all of the vacant land, the odd sections, fell into the hands of the railroad company, and many new homesteads were taken in 1866, after the close of the war of the rebellion. With prospects of having a railroad built through the county, nearly all of the railroad land was pruchased by actual settlers during this year. Many of the new settlers were foreigners, Swedes, Norwegians, Finns, Polanders, and others, and as most of them came late in the summer of 1866, they did not raise much of any thing, and as many of them were not well healed, the spring of 1867 found them without any means of subsistance. This was a very late, wet, spring. Rains commenced about the first of April, and continued throughout the month. The rivers, creek, lakes and marshes were full to overflowing, and the roads through the timber were impassible. About the first of May, rumors were afloat that many of the new settlers in the west part of the county were actually starving. Soon the city newspapers took it up and a great hue and cry was raised against the county commissioners of Wright county, for allowing so much suffering, and not trying to help alleviate the misery. The St. Paul and Minneapolis papers made the assertion, "that we are informed by good authority that hundreds of persons in the west part of Wright county are actually starving, or subsisting entirely on elm bark." The board of commissioners sent out a committee to investigate the matter and report facts immediately. In the mean time several persons had reported to the Governor that persons were actually starving, and he had sent out one load of flour, eighteen sacks, and some other provisions. The committee sent out by the board of commissioners found a general scarcity of provisions in several towns. In Victor and Stockholm, the Mooers Prairie, many families were found with simply nothing to live upon; houses were thoroughly examined from cellar to attic and could not find anything to eat, not even a potatoe, and this in houses where there were large families. The principal reason given by the settlers was that they moved into the timber late in the spring of 1866, and consequently could not raise but very small crops, and that they had no money to buy with, and with many the roads had been so bad they could

not get out. The committee after looking over two or three towns, sometimes on horseback, sometimes on foot, on dry land occasionally, but generally in mud and water, returned and reported to the board the fact that many persons were in need of help in the western towns. But what could be done? The county had just got out of debt, after nearly ten years of financial difficulties. All old debt, bonds and bounties had been paid and county orders were as good as greenbacks, when for several years they had been at a large discount, sometimes as low as 30 cents. But there was no money in the treasury and there was no time to look after the matter of issuing bonds. If money was raised it must be by county orders, and money at that time could not be found in the county, and the committee went to the cities to negotiate a loan of five hundred dollars. But Wright county had not the very best reputation, and bankers and money loaners did not want a county order for five hundred dollars. After trying in vain for a loan both in St. Paul and Minneapolis, the committee was about to return, when happening in the office of the St. Paul & Pacific railroad company, to speak of the suffering in Wright county and of the inability of the county commissioners to assist on account of no money, Mr. W. B. Litchfield inquired how much was needed, and on being informed, he volunteered to furnish the five hundred dollars for the county. It has often been said that corporations have no souls, but Mr. Litchfield was the head of the corporation, and by this act showed that he had a very generous soul when compared with the bankers of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

At a special meeting of the board of county commissioners held at Monticello, May 18th 1867; "Voted that a county bond be issued to W. B. Litchfield of St. Paul, to the amount of five hundred dollars payable one year after date, bearing interest at the rate of seven per cent. per annum. The same being for money to be applied towards relieving the destitute persons in Wright county."

T. C. SHAPLEIGH,
Chm. Board of Commissioners.

Attention: HENRY KREIS, Auditor.

Now the commissioners had the money, but the trouble had just commenced.

Flour was $12 per barrel, and it was almost impossible to get a team to haul out a load. Finally one team was hired to take a load to Rockford at $2 per barrel, and it was a hard bargain at that. The roads were so bad and the mud so deep, that the flour had to be unloaded five or six times on the way, and had been rolled so much in the mud, that not a particle of the barrel could be seen for mud. Flour, wheat and corn for seed, potatoes etc. were furnished, and although attempts were made to get teams through to the west part of the county, it was a failure, and the provisions and seed had to be delivered to the destitute persons at the village of Rockford, and in many cases carried more than twenty miles on men's and women's backs. The board of county commissioners had ordered by resolution, that no person should receive help from the county unless said person presented to the committee a certificate signed by the full board of supervisors of their town, that the person was entirely destitute of the means of subsistance and in danger of starvation. In looking over these certificated it is found that there are very many of the paupers at that time who now stand high in the county in influence and wealth, and the means furnished by the county should be considered as a loan, and paid back with interest. But this was not the only appropriation made by the county. Provisions, seeds, groceries and clothing were destributed from Monticello, purchased with county funds, to the amount of four hundred dollars, during May and June of that year, so that the total expenses for bond and money, and commissioners and committees fees, was about one thousand dollars. Half the month of May and until about the 20th of June, a continual stream of the destitute were going to, or returning from Rockford and Monticello. Men, women and children wallowing through the mud and on the return loaded with flour, corn or potatoes. In one town every person but two became paupers, and the supervisors signed their own certificates of destitution. Besides this there were many in the county who continually blamed the board of commissioners for not working fast enough in feeding the hungry settlers, and many went to the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and with imaginary or well concocted takes of woe and suffering and starvation succeeded in raising quite large contributions and always reported that the county commissioners were doing nothing. A Mr. Corey of Victor, and a Mr. White of Middleville, were very active in

begging and making false reports about the destitution and the lack of energy in the board of commissioners. Mr. White went to St. Anthony and by a well told tale succeeded in getting 50 sacks of flour and 30 bushels of potatoes as a contribution to the starving in Middleville. He took the whole to Monticello on a steam boat, then to Buffalo by teams, then on boats and rafts across Buffalo lake, and up the north fork of Crow river. But he found so many hungry persons by the way, or for some other reason not explained, that but six sacks of flour and two bushels of potatoes ever reached the pretended destination, the town of Middleville. This famine of 1867 is not a very pleasant history, and not very much to credit of Wright county, and is in one sense like the Indian scare of 1862 and 1863, which was a mania, and the published history may have a tendency to check other public manias when there is a tendency in that direction.

THE REMOVAL OF THE COUNTY SEAT TO BUFFALO

In the fall of the year 1858 the voters of the county were called upon to decide where the county seat should be located. The county was not at that time much settled up, and Monticello won an easy victory over several competitors, and the county seat was established at that place.

But during the winter of 1866 and 1867, the matter began to be agitated again, and at this time by the question of erecting county buildings, and consequently the permanent location of the county seat. The question of building a court house immediately could not be put off any longer. The county offices were kept in several places. Two officers, auditor and treasurers, were in one room. The county attorney, sheriff, register of deeds, judge of probate and clerk of court, had no offices, and the books and records were scattered through the village of Monticello in private houses. The citizens of Monticello feeling secure in retaining the county seat, did not seem inclined to take any measure to furnish even at a high or low rent any suitable building for county purposes. The county was fast filling up with actual settlers, the official business of the county was increasing very fast, and it became evident to all that a court house must soon be built.

Petitions were circulated throughout the county and numerously signed, asking the legislature to pass an act to remove the county seat of Wright county from Monticello to Buffalo. At the session of the legislature in the winter of 1867, such an act was passed, submitting the matter to the people to be voted upon at the November election in 1867. Mr. Jackson Taylor and others of Buffalo, gave a bond to the board of county commissioners and agreed that if the county seat was removed to Buffalo they would furnish a suitable court room, and offices for all county officers, free of rent, for the term of five years. The buildings to be accepted by the board of county commissioners. At the general election in November 1867, the vote was carried for Buffalo by a large majority. The citizens of Buffalo fulfilled their part of the contract by building a court house, 24 by 36 feet, and two stories high. The building was accepted by the commissioners, and the last meeting of the board at Monticello, was held March 12th 1868, and the first meeting at Buffalo, March 23rd, of the same year. The county now had a home, with county offices and court room all in one building, the first since its organization.

LAND GRANTS

In the act of Congress passed February 26, 1857, to authorize a state government for Minnesota, the following grants were made:

SCHOOL LANDS AND SCHOOLS

That sections numbered sixteen and thirty-six in every township of public lands in said state, and when either of said sections or any part thereof had been sold or otherwise been disposed of, other lands equivalent thereto and as contiguous as may be, shall be granted to said state for the use of schools.

This liberal donation of lands for school purposes to the state by Congress, has stimulated the cause of education, and the proceeds of the sale of school lands, or the principal, is not used, only the annual interest on the general school fund, and this has very much assisted in supporting public schools in the state; and the citizens of Wright county have not been lacking in interest in schools. In every settlement almost the first thing done was to have a school district organized, build a school house and start a school. With the Americans it was always the case, and the foreigners were not far behind. Germans, Swedes and Irish all united in building school houses. Very many of the first ones were built by volunteer labor and contributions. At least one-half of the first school houses in the county were built, furnished with stoves, seats, and a school started without any tax levy. But by the spontaneous act of the citizens, all acting together, the work was done, and well done, without waiting the slow process of assessor collector and contractor. Red tape was at a discount. Of course in these early years not much school land had been sold, and not much assistance was received from the general school fund. But if special school taxes were high and the school subscriptions were called for often, still the first schools were well supported, and teachers were well paid.

Some of these first teachers would hardly pass an examination for a third grade certificate at this time, but we were then not troubled with a county superintendent of schools.

From 1860 to 1868, each commissioner district had a school examiner appointed by the board of county commissioners. Some of these school examiners attended to their duties, but generally the only thing they did was to present a small bill for examination of teachers, and although the law required them to visit the schools, as a general rule they could not find time, or in many cases wisely did not intrude where they could not be of any benefit. So the public schools of Wright county were nearly all and each of them independent school districts.

OTHER LAND GRANTS-ROADS

At the same time that the public school land grant was made, seventy-two sections of land were set apart for the use and support of a state university. Also ten entire sections of land for the purpose of erecting public buildings at the seat of government. Also all salt springs in the state, not to exceed twelve in number, with six sections of land adjoining the same.

That five per centum of the net proceeds of the sale of all public land lying within said state, which shall be sold by Congress, after the admission of said state into the Union, shall be paid to said state for the purpose of making public roads and internal improvements as the legislature may direct. Provided that nc tax shall be imposed on lands belonging to the United States, and in no case shall non-resident PROPRIETORS BE TAXED HIGHER THAN RESIDENTS. These last provisions have something to do with the history of Wright county, so they are noted here.

The donation of five per cent of the proceeds of the sale of public lands to the state for the purpose of making public roads was certainly very liberal and if the same had been used as the act of Congress seems to require, would have been of much benefit to Wright county in its earliest settlements. Wright county being nearly all timber land, one of the greatest difficulties that the early settlers had to contend with, was bad roads, or no roads. The western part of Hennepin county being timber land, the roads leading from the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis to the central and western portion of Wright county were for many years in a very bad state,



Old log school in District 24 two miles east of Buffalo. This one room building was built in 1866.

and at certain seasons of the year almost impassible. It was a hard task to cut out roads and build bridges by the few settlers, but even when this was done there were no passable roads. To travel from Minneapolis to Wright county any time from 1855 to 1875, for twenty years, was not a very pleasant days work. In the spring it was simply horrible, and would not be undertaken the second time without dire necessity. During the past five or six years, Hennepin county has been very liberal in making good roads. Wright county has always had about as much to do as the people could stand by taxation in building bridges, as the county is bounded on three sides by rivers, and has within its borders one hundred and forty-six lakes, so that as a county no roads have been built. But the towns have spent large sums in making roads until the good roads are the rule and bad ones the exception. But it has been a heavy burden to be borne alone when settlers in prairie counties have had really nothing of the kind to contend with. And this same thing, bad roads, retarded the settlement of the county for years. During the time that the interests of this county were suffering for the want of help to build roads, which ought to have been done with the money donated by Congress for the express purpose of building roads, Wright county had the privilege of voting to fill a few seats in the state legislature, and the seats were filled, but that was all. The internal improvement fund was always used in some prairie county where the people were fortunate in having working members of the legislature. Allowing the one-fourth part of the land in Wright county was either pre-empted or sold at public land sales by the United States, it would be 96,000 acres at $1.25 per acre, the whole amount would be $120,000. The five per cent would be $6,000. All that has ever been appropriated for improvements in Wright county is about $200 or $400 to repair the Dayton bridge, and one-half of that is in Hennepin county. This appropriation was made in 1864. In 1871 an appropriation of $400 was made by the legislature out of the above named fund to assist in building a bridge over Crow river in the town of Cokato, but the bill was killed by a vet, and Wright county must build her own bridges, of which there are many, 12 across Crow river, at a cost of nearly $15,000; and the annual cost of keeping in repair over $5,000; and all this without sharing in the internal improvement fund for roads and bridges.

LAND GRANTS AND RAILROADS

On the 3rd of March 1857, Congress donated to the state nearly 5,000 sections of land in aid of railroads in the state; or nearly three million acres of aid in the construction of four lines of railroads, each nearly 200 miles in length, six sections for each mile. This tract of land was 12 miles wide, six miles on each side of said railroads, in alternate sections, taking the odd numbered sections, and leaving the even numbered sections to settlers. A few years afterward the homestead law was passed so that probably not more than one-fourth part of the land in Wright county was sold to pre-emptors, or at land sales. Three-fourths of the land fell into the hands of the railroad company or was entered as homestead. As one of the four railroads was suffered to pass through Wright county the citizens became quite interested.

The St. Paul, Minneapolis & Northwestern railroad by its charter was to build a railroad from St. Paul to the western boundary of the state with terminus between the head of Big Stone lake and the mouth of the Bois de Sioux, or Sioux Wood river, with a branch to St. Cloud. It was very natually supposed that the roads, or one of them, would be built through Wright county. This chartered company has since been The First Division of the St. Paul & Pacific R.R. Co., and later the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba R.R. Co.

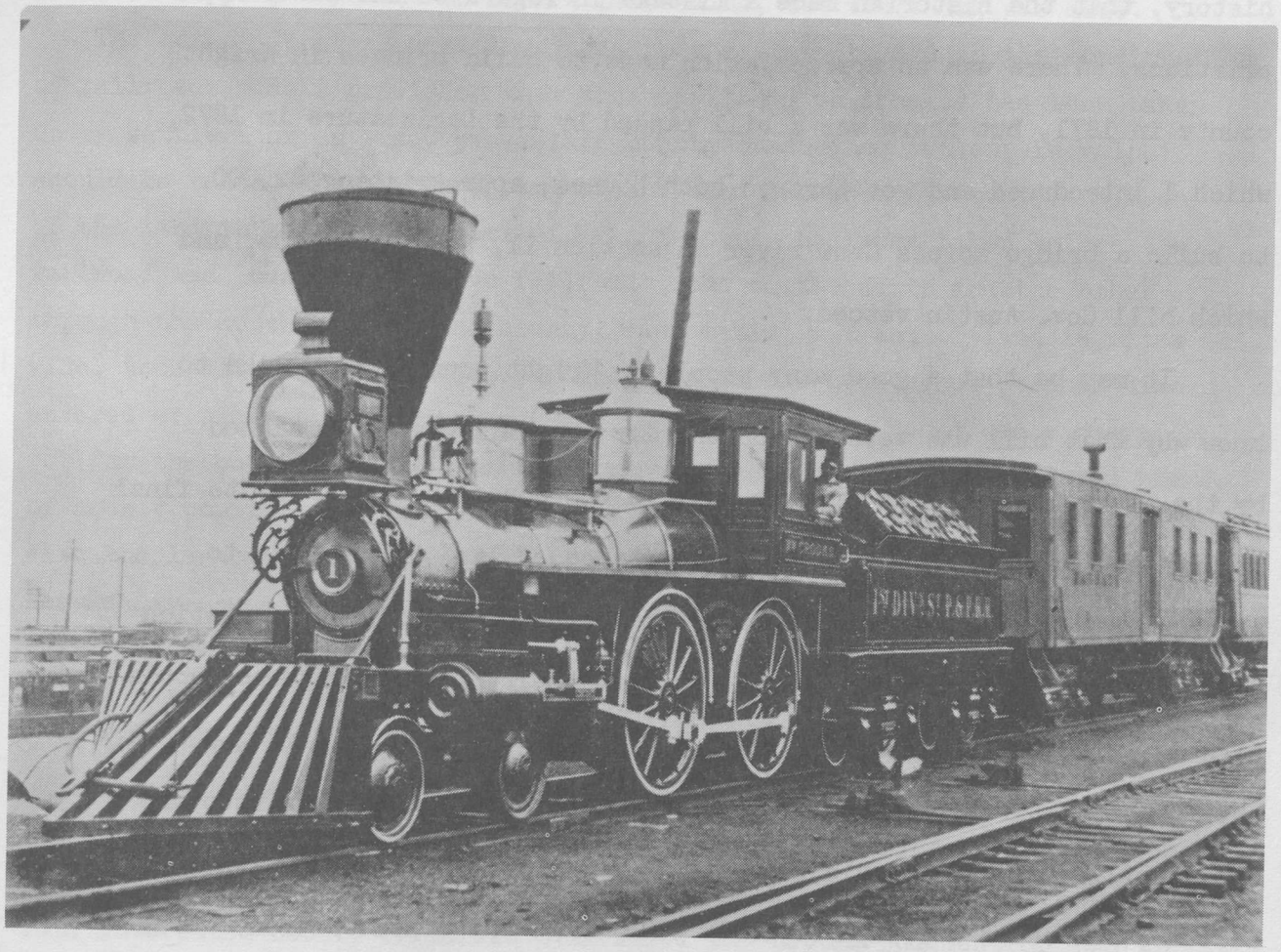
After the admission of the state into the Union in 1858, the great subject under consideration was railroads. After the magnificent land grant by Congress and the railroad companies chartered, and organized, it seemed that the great work would be accomplished. But about this time the national financial troubles came and all business, especially railroad building, was in a great measure suspended and our splendid system of railroads was at a stand still. Negotiations for loans for building railroads in this comparatively new and almost unknown state were sad failures at the money centers in the United State and in Europe. During the session of the first legislature in January and February 1858, Mr. Selah Chamberlain and other capitalists who were interested in our railroads as charter members, suggested to the legislature that if the state would loan its credit to the railroad companies to the

amount of $5,000,000, by issuing bonds to that amount bearing seven per cent interest, and payable in twenty-five years, and receiving for security first mortgages on the lands and franchises of said railroads, with a special provision that said railroad companies should pay all interest when due on said bonds and the principal, and if default was made by said companies, or either of them failed to pay the interest when due, or the principal or either, then the lands, franchises, road bed and rolling stock should become the property of the state. And further, provided, that no bonds should be issued to said railroad companies until satisfactory evidence was produced to the Governor by the verified affidavits of the chief engineer, treasurer and two directors of said companies, or either of them, that any ten miles of the road has been actually constructed and completed ready for placing the super structure theron, the Governor shall cause to be issued to said company bonds to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars, and when the same evidence is produced to the Governor that any ten miles of said railroad is completed, and the cars running thereon, the Governor shall cause to be granted to said company bonds to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars, and so continue to give bonds until the $5,000,000 in bonds were granted. And further, each company shall make provision for punctual payment and redemptive of all bonds issued and delivered as aforesaid to said company, and for the punctual payment of the interest which shall accrue thereon in such manner as shall exonerate the treasury of this state from any advance of money for the purpose. And in security thereof the Governor shall demand and receive from each of said company before any of said bonds are issued, an instrument pledging the net profits of its road for the payment of said interest, and a conveyance to the state of the first two hundred and forty sections of land free from price of incumbrances, which such company is or may be authorized to sell, in trust for the better security of the treasury of the state from loss on said bonds. Which said deed of trust shall authorize the Governor and Secretary of State to make conveyance of title to all or any of the sale of such land shall be applied to the payment of the interest and principal on said bonds. This seemed to be a fair and safe arrangement and with some other safe guards it seemed impossible that the state could lose by the transaction.

The bill was passed by the legislature and submitted to the people as amendmant to the constitution of the state, and on the 15th of April 1858, an election was held for that purpose. Wright county was very much interested in that election, as it was then supposed one of the main lines would be built through the center of the county, and the branch line to St. Cloud, very near the north and east part of the county. The county gave an almost unanimous vote for the amendment to the constitution or the five million loan bill. The measure was also carried in the state by a large majority, and it seemed then that in a very short time we should be blessed with railroad facilities. Many very intelligent persons who became residents of the state since 1868, express much suprise that such an amendment to the constitution as the five million loan bill should have been adopted by so large a majority. But such persons do not comprehend the situation at the time. As a state we were nearly isolated, only the Mississippi river in summer as a means of communication with the rest of the world, and in winter cut off entirely, except by stages at long intervals. There were no inducements for new settlers or immigrants to come to the state. And while thousands were going to Kansas and Nebraska, Minnesota was not increasing very fast in population or wealth. There was no home market for our surplus products of the soil, and no transportation to an eastern market except in summer by the river. The lumbering business was not profitable, and farming was at a discount. Wheat was worth about 40 cents per bushel; pork and beef were not worth carrying to market. Besides this groceries, clothing and other necessaries of life were very high, especially so in winter, during the ice blockade. As stocks were always sure to run low during the winter, Wright county had a great interst in having the railroad completed. Not having any good wagon roads, and no prospect of any in the near future, the settlers looked anxiously for the advent of railroads, and voted accordingly.

But with the bright prospects in the spring of 1858, the people were doomed to disappointment. The railroad companies went to work and considerable grading was done on all the roads, except the main line of the Northwest. Up through Anoka and Sherburne counties the branch line to St. Cloud was nearly all graded, and the bonds issued by the Governor to the amount of $3,500,000, but no road finished. The hard times and financial embarrassments continued.

Banks, stocks and state bonds kept going down until there seemed to be no bottom. Our railroad bonds went down with the rest, and there was danger of the work on the railroads being stopped. A committee was sent by the state and the railroad companies to New York to try and sell bonds. It was useless, and when the bonds could not be negotiated for 20 cents on the dollar, the work of issuing stopped, and the work on the railroads stopped also. The companies were bankrupt and many laborers were never paid for the last month's work. And all of the lands, road beds and franchises of the railroad companies passed into the hands of the state. For two years not much was done in railroad business, but eventually new railroad companies were organized and the legislature transferred the land and all other property forfeited by the old bankrupt companies to the new ones. W. B. Litchfield, E. F. Drake, F. R. Delano and George L. Becker, became the leading railroad men. Not very much progress was made on our railroad; the name was changed and it became the First Division of the St. Paul & Pacific R. R. Co., under the management of George L. Becker as president, and W. B. Litchfield as the money power. The ten miles of road from St. Paul to Minneapolis was put into operation, and the branch line to St. Cloud. Then came the war of the rebellion and railroad building was stopped for a season. In 1866 the main line was located through the big woods during the winter of 1866 and 1867. The road was finished to Delano in this county in October 1868, and through the county to Cokato in July 1869. With the advent of the railroad, the west part of the county settled up very fast, and nearly all of the land was taken up by the close of the year 1869. The railroad company owned nearly one-third part of the land in the county, and as the title to these lands were still vested in the United States, they were not subject to taxation. It was felt by many that these lands the odd sections, should be taxed as they were being improved and increased in value each year by building roads, school houses and many other improvements, and made valuable at the expense and hard work of the settlers.



This was the first passenger train to reach Clearwater when the track was laid through the northern part of Wright County.

HISTORICAL.

EDITOR EAGLE:— I see by reading chapter XI of the Wright county history, that the historian made a mistake in regard to the state appropriations. There was no appropriation made to build bridges in Wright county in 1871, but there was a bill passed by the Legislature in 1872, which I introduced and got through both Houses, appropriating $2,000 to build a bridge across Crow river in section 11, town of Cokato, and which bill Gov. Austin vetoed.

It may be that a good many people in Wright county would like to know why that bill was vetoed. On the day the bill was to be signed by the governor there was another bill in the House to be put on its final passage, to grant either four or six sections of land to the mile to the M. & St. L. R. R. , and a member from the Hennepin county delegation came to me and said that if I would support their bill the governor would sign my bridge bill. I said I would not do it. He then said if I did not support their bill that L. Fletcher would have the governor veto the bridge bill. I said I would be sorry to have the bill vetoed on that account, but could not support their bill under any consideration. About two hours after their land grant bill was defeated, the governor's veto on my bridge bill was sent into the House.

Yours truly,

F. X. LAFOND.

Little Falls, Minn. Mar. 21, 1881.

The county officers of Wright county for year 1867 were, county commissioners, T. C. Shapleigh, chairman; A. E. Oakes and D. R. Farnham. County attorney, H. L. Gordon; auditor, Henry Dreis; treasurer, F. M. Parcher. After long consultation and advice from the county attorney it was resolved to put the railroad lands in the county on the tax list. Of course the railroad company objected to such a proceeding, but the thing was done.

The act of Congress donating lands to the state to aid in the construction of railroads made a provision that when the lands so donated had been taken up by settlers or entered, other land contiguous and equivalent in value should be taken. The largest part of the land in Hennepin county and much of the land in the eastern part of Wright county had been taken before the railroad was located. The two railroads, one on the north and the other through the south part of the county, each taking a tract of land 24 miles wide, took all of the odd numbered sections in the county not at that time entered or pre-empted. Putting these lands on the tax books was a heavy job for the county auditor and quite expensive to the county. How the board of county commissioners were persuaded to take this step is yet a mystery. With the law on the subject before them, and as it seems plain, that they should have been induced to put the county to the expense of fighting the railroad companies alone, when nearly every county in the state was interested in the matter, seems strange and can only be accounted for by the supposition that the county attorney was ambitious to occupy a prominent position and make his mark before the supreme court, as he well knew the matter would go there, however the case might be decided in the district court; or the county auditor might have had an expectation of having his salary raised. At any rate interested county officials over-ruled the better judgment of some of the board, and the thing was accomplished. But the railroad company did not pay the taxes and the lands were advertised for sale as delinquent, another expense in favor of the printer. The railroad company made an application to the district court, Judge C. E. Vanderburgh, for an injunction to restrain F. M. Parcher, treasurer, and Henry Kreis, auditor, from selling these lands in Wright county at the annual sale of lands for delinquent taxes.

Then commenced those famous law suits of the First Division of the St.

Paul & Pacific R.R.Company against F. M. Parcher, treasurer, and Henry Kreis, auditor of Wright county, Minnesota.

At the regular term of the district court held at Buffalo, June 2, 1868 this case was called. H. R. Bigelow for the plaintiff, H. L. Gordon for the defendent. About all there was to the first trial of this case that was interesting was the well studied pleas of both lawyers. Mr. Bigelow made a very long and interesting plea; he had made himself master of the subject. Mr. Gordon with his usual earnestness followed, and for long and exhaustive argument was hard to be beat. With such a subject and such lawyer it was one of the hardest legal battles ever fought in the county. The case was decided in favor of the R.R. Company, and an appeal taken to the supreme court, and the county attorney was in his element. Although he had always pretended that lawyers fees would cost the county nothing; yet at the September meeting in 1868, the board of the supreme court. Money and fame was just what Gordon was after. The decision of the supreme court sustained the action of the district court, and the matter ended. This on the whole was an expensive experiment for the county, not only in the money paid to the county attorney, but in many other things. The railroad company could not act very friendly toward Wright county, and in many ways showed that it believed the people were opposed to railroads and to the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad in particular. Not only this, the expense to the county in putting the large quantity of lands on the tax list and advertising them, and the necessary expense attending law suits. And it took several years to make a settlement with the state. In fact a final settlement was almost impossible on account of the large state tax for the years 1867 and 1868, claimed by the state from the county which was never paid into the county treasury, but according to the books was and is still claimed by the state, and has been a source of annoyance and trouble to the county officers to the present time.

THE DISTRICT COURT

The first general term of the district court for the 4th judicial district was held at Monticello, Dec. 4, 1857, Edward O. Hamlin, judge; James Chambers, clerk. Hamlin was judge until March 20, 1860. Then

Charles E. Vanderburgh, who has been judge for twenty years and at present holds that position. He has had an associate, Judge A. H. Young, since 1878. But excepting two or three terms of court, Vanderburgh has been the presiding judge in this county since March, 1860.

James Chambers was clerk until October 1859. Thomas Chambers to September, 1861. James Chambers and H. B. Hill, deputy, until December 1865. A. F. Barker from 1865 to 1870. W.W. Brasie from 1870 to 1873. George A. Hoffman from 1873 to 1880.

COUNTY AUDITOR

The first county auditor was J. O. Haven from April 1855 to April 1857. C.B. Jordan from 1857 to April 1859. Ed. P. Abbott from April to September 1859. John O. Haven from September 1859 to April 1860. James Chambers from April 1860 to Jan. 1, 1861. James W. Mulvey from January 1861 to March 1, 1863. Henry Kreis from March 1863 to March 1871. J. R. Ames from March 1871 to 1873. G. A.Ruckoldt from 1873 to March 1, 1875. William Tubbs from March 1, 1875 to March 7, 1881. J. N. Stacy present auditor.

INSANE PERSONS IN THE COUNTY

The first insane person sent from Wright county to the insane hopital at St. Peter, was John Coolett of Buffalo, January 10, 1863. He has been followed by a large number, in fact Wright county has been largely represented in that institution during the past eighteen years. Some from almost every town. But if Wright county is not behind other equally populos counties in the state in patronizing the institution at St. Peter, she has no more patients than many other counties. Insanity does not seem to be a local disease and is not confined to any particular part of the state, but has become a general evil without any known cause, except it may be, the citizens of the state are very ambitious and disappointment cannot be endured and suicide or insanity follow.

The yearly expenses of the county have been given for the first years of the organization. In the year 1866 the county expenses were $3,566.59.

OFFICERS SALARIES

In 1867, county attorney.....$ 200.00
In 1867, auditor..... 900.00
In 1867, clerk of court..... 95.50
In 1867, sheriff..... 130.00
The total county expenses for the year of 1867
were.....4,874.42
In 1868, auditor..... 900.00
In 1868, clerk of court..... 69.55
In 1868, sheriff..... 336.05
In 1868, county attorney..... 150.00
The total expense of the county for the year
were.....5,337.00
In 1869, total expenses of the county were.....5.520.76
In 1870, total expenses of the county were.....7,534.19
In 1871 the county expenses took a suden leap upwards, to $12, 157. 82 and have been gradually increasing since that time.

THE COURT HOUSE

In 1873 the contract with the citizens of Buffalo for a free court house for five years expired, and not having made any other arrangements, the county was obliged to purchase the building of Jackson Taylor for the use of the county at one thousand dollars, and began to make arrangements to build a new court house. The legislature having passed an act allowing the county to issue bonds for the purpose of erecting county buildings, the matter was submitted to the people at the general election in 1875 and was adopted. Committees were sent by the board of county commissioners into different parts of the state to examine county buildings and report the best that could be built for $30,000 to $50,000. The committee reported

that a brick court house with stone basement and large enough for all county purposes, with rooms for all county offices, court room and jury rooms would cost about $35,000. Mr. J. V. Daniels drew up the plans and specifications and the county advertised for bids. Bids were received as high as $41,000; and several between $35,000 and $40,000. The bid of Bisbee & Bardwell of Minneapolis for $26,640 was accepted and a contract made with them to build the court house. It was supposed that as there were no building stone in the county, and very few brick had been made that it would be a rather hard bargain for the contractors. But by using the stone found around Buffalo lake for a part of the basement and hauling the balance from Minneapolis, and by burning brick in the vicinity of the building , the contract was fulfilled to the satisfaction of all, and at the contract price without any extras.

The mason work was under the supervision of Joseph Nelson then nearly 80 years of age. The out buildings and grading, fencing and ornamenting the grounds has cost about $3,000; so that the whole cost is about $30,000, and Wright county has one of the best, neatest and most comfortable court houses in the state. The county officers moved into the new court house on the first day of January 1878, and the county has a home. The location is central and unless some unlooked for circumstance should change the boundries of the county, the county seat will remain at Buffalo.

During the first ten years of the county organization, the towns along the Mississippi and Crow rivers were the most populous. But after the railroad was built the western towns made rapid strides in population and wealth. Monticello, Rockford and Clearwater were the prinicipal villages, but on the completion of the railroad in a few years, Delano, Howard Lake and Cokato took the lead. Monticello, Rockford and Clearwater remained almost stationary. Buffalo having the county seat, has made considerable progress during the past twelve years.

POPULATION OF WRIGHT COUNTY

Census of 1860.	3,729
Census of 1865.	5,028
Census of 1870.	9,457
Census of 1875.	13,775
Census of 1880.	18,104

The projected railroad through the county, or the road now running through the northeast part of the county, will no doubt increase the wealth and population in Frankfort, Otsego, Monticello, Silver Creek and Clearwater, so that the census of 1885 will show that these towns are keeping pace with the towns in the south part of the county. Wright county with its productive soil and natural advantages as to market, and enterprising inhabitants, must in a short time rank as one of the first counties in the state. With hardly a foot of waste land within its boundries; with its many clear and beautiful lakes; its rivers and many water powers; with the fact that the average of all crops is higher than in any other county in the state; with not one failure in any crop during twenty-five years; its many advantages over the prairies, the county is destined to become one of the best in the state. The opening of the prairie country west of the big woods in 1869 and 1870, by the building of the St. Paul & Pacific R.R. took almost all of the new settlers and immigrants to that region. But the tide has turned and settlers on the great prairies are looking to the big woods for a comfortable home, at least during the winter. And although great numbers went to the prairies and took up homesteads there, many of them will finally return to the timber lands and will in future make Wright county their permanent homes, where the prairie blizzards do not come and where crops are always sure in wet, dry, cold or hot seasons.



This brick building was Wright County's second courthouse. It was built in 1877 and opened formally January 1, 1878.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

The first agricultural society organized in the county was the Crow River Agricultural Society, organized at Rockford, July 13, 1860. The society had a large membership and held regular monthly meetings for four or five years. Wm. Sleight, president; D.R.Farnham, Secretary. In September 1861, the first fair was held in the county at Rockford. Col. J. H. Stevens of Minneapolis, then residing at Glencoe, Mcleod county, and editor and proprietor of the Glencoe Register, delivered the address. The fair was a very successful one, although no premiums were paid. The fairs were well patronized, and the society did good work in purchasing blooded stock and making very much improvements in cattle, hogs and sheep in that part of the county. But it was not a county society, and in 1869 closed up business and ceased to exist as an agricultural society. On the 18th day of January 1870, the Wright County Agricultural Society was organized. The first meeting was held at the court house in Buffalo. The persons present and taking a part in the first meeting were Wm. Sleight, John B. Parvin, J. M. Keeler, J. W. Hanaford, John Knights, Geo. Davis, Milton Bliss, W. T. Rigby, H. W. Brookins, D. R. Farnham, Thomas Smithson, James Griffin, E.S. Spaulding and F. H. Widstrand. The officers elected were: President-Wm. Sleight; vice-president-J. B. Parvin; secretary-J. M. Keeler; treasurer- J. W. Hanaford; executive committee-John Knights, Geo. Davis, Milton Bliss and W. T. Rigby. The annual fair was held at Monticello, on September 21, 22, and 23, 1870. The society did not pay any premiums this year, only granted diplomas, but it was a very successful fair. Membership tickets were one dollar; family tickets also one dollar; single admission tickets 25 cents. A very small amount of horse racing took place, as has always been the case at the annual fairs. As the society has never had a permanent home or location and as there is no established race course in the county, horse racing has not been a leading feature at the county fairs. At this first fair, the local newspaper says: "The races, if they can be called such, on the last day of the fair, did not amount to any thing extraordinary. A piece of middling straight road was taken for the track over and across which during the whole performance vehicles and persons were continually crossing and re-crossing. No distance was measured

off and no exact time kept. D. Worthings horse of Monticello, did the fastest and best trotting of any horse on the ground. John Knights horse of Rockford, made the best time on the track. J. W. Hanaford had a horse on the course, but either from a mistake or from some other cause did not make much of a show. Prescott of Monticello, had a pacer on the ground which if it had been properly handled would have done some very good traveling. After the trotting a running race took place and would have been a success if one horse had not flown the track, and the other ran slap into a buggy, piling things promiscuously." The exhibitor's of best horses at this fair, were A. M. McKenzie, A. W. Hoar, H. Griffin, S. A. Putnam, Geo. Covart of Monticello and Buffalo, and E. Allen of Rockford. Cattle, C. W. Wedgewood, A. Nickerson, Wm. Marsh, T. G. Mealey, J. B. Rich, H. Ferguson, J. Starritt and J. E. Gallow. Sheep, H. Starritt, Wm. Hoar, Poultry, O. C. Randall, Dairy, Mrs. J. W. Hanaford, F. Pitt J. J. Parker, P. Brady. Vegetables, Thos. Melrose, J. Stroke, J. Sturgis, J. F. Lewis, D. C. Wells, J. C. Copeland, C. S. Boyd, Thos. Smithson and others. Grain, M. Lord, A. S. Gilchrist, W. Sleight, J. F. Lewis, J. Sturgis, G. Stokes, G. R. Wedgewood. Fruit, Wm. Sleight, D. Hamlet, James Stokes, C. S. Boyd. Messrs. Mourlton & Co. of the St. Anthony nursery, offered a premium of 30 fruit trees to the person in Wright county presenting the greatest number of native apples, and 20 trees for the next greatest number. D. Hamlet took the first premium, and James Stokes the second.

The financial statement of the society of 1870, shows as follows:

RECEIPTS

Sales of tickets	$ 153.75
Sale of lumber	7.50
Total	$ 161.25

EXPENDITURES

Geo. Gray, bill for printing	$ 17.75
A. F. Barker, stationary	1.45
J. B. Blanchard, watching	2.50

A. Bryant, 2days watching	$ 5.00
B. McCord, 2 days watching	5.00
J. N. Spaulding, 2 days clerking	4.00
J. N. Spaulding, cleaning building	2.00
C. W. Clarey, 18 fence posts	2.25
C.W. Clarey, nails and lumber	11.83
C. W. Clarey, hay	8.00
C. W. Clarey, 7 days work	13.50
Stacy & Co., 2 cords	.70
Wm. Sleight, services as pres.	15.00
J. M. Keeler, services as sec	15.00
S. E. Adams, record book	2.50
Wm. Sleight, for diplomas	25.00
Total	$126.48
Balance in treasurer's hands	34.87

The diplomas issued were not very expensive affairs, and on a very small scale, but answered all purposes for the first fair. At the annual meeting held at Monticello, January 21, 1871, the following officers were elected: President- Wm. Sleight; vice-president- Geo. W. Whiting; secretary- John B. Parvin; treasurer- J. W. Hanafor; executive committee- S.E. Adams chm; James Sturges; Thos. McLeod, G. R. Wedgewood and T. G. Mealey. The constitution and by laws were changed, so as to conform with the state agricultural society, and as the law required, so as to draw the amount apportioned by the state auditor to county societies complying with the law and giving premiums at their annual fairs. At a special meeting held at Monticello, July 2, 1871, a premium list was made out, and also voted to hold the annual fair at Monticello on the 4th, 5th and 6th of October 1871. This fair was well attended; premiums were offered, but on account of the very dry season and the many fires throughout the county in the timber and also on the prairie, (this was about the date the great Chicago and Wisconsin fires) there was a very small attendance the first day. But the second day was better, and the last day, Friday, was the best. The weather was fine and the

attendance was larger than both of the other days. The rains had checked the fires throughout the county, and the people could attend the fair. The citizens of Monticello had prepared a half mile race track, and the races this year were quite exciting. John Swain took the first premium. In the forenoon Col. John H. Stevens delivered the address; it was brief, pithy and to the point.

In the running races in the afternoon, Mr. Brazie's horse beat Dr. Wakefields. Mr. Chase sent his compliments to Sherburne county in the shape of 17 or 18 baloons. Tip Mealey won the wheelbarrow race, and Charles Brasie the foot race. And thus ended the county fair of 1871.

The receipts and expenditures were as follows:

RECEIPTS

To balance due in settlement 1870. .....$	34.87
Amount from State Auditor.....	95.23
Sales of tickets.....	109.00
Sale of tickets.....	141.50
Sale of lumber.....	33.50
Total.....$	414.10

EXPENDITURES

Amount paid for blank books.....$	6.85
Treasurer's book.....	2.00
Seal and other expenses.....	9.30
Paid John H. Stevens.....	10.00
Postage.....	3.77
Stationery.....	1.20
Paid Hitter, lumber.....	100.00
T. A. Perrine, printing.....	20.50
C.W. Patterson for labor.....	5.00
A. J. Covart, well.....	7.50

P. Brady, watching	$ 6.00
A. F. Barker, merchandise	2.25
D. Dearborn, labor	4.50
T. G. Mealey, merchandise	9.00
R. Hunt, labor	8.00
Starritt, labor	20.00
Premium orders	143.50
Diplomas	24.50
Balance	25.23
Total	$414.10

At the annual meeting held at Post's hall in Monticello, January 20, 1872, the following officers were elected: President- Wm. Sleight; vice-president- Geo. H. Whiting; secretary- John B. Parvin; treasurer- J. W. Hanaford; executive committees- S. E. Adams, chm, Henry Dries, James Sturges, John Knights, Thos. McLeod. On the first day of August 1872, John B. Parvin resigned and J. F. Lesis was apponted secretary. The annual fair was held at Monticello, September 26, 27, and 28, 1872. Wednesday the first day was very wet and few people attended. Thursday was a fine day and the fair proved a success. S.W.Albough of Minneapolis, delivered the annual address on Friday. The horse racing came off on the track below the town, and was quite exciting. On account of the rains on Wednesday the fair was extended to Saturday, which was really the best day. This fair was in some respects the best ever held in the county; the number of entries was much greater than on any previous year; the attendance was not so large as in 1871, and the receipts were somewhat smaller, but the expenses were much less and the society gained something.

The total receipts were	$ 297.10
Expenses and premiums	275.73
Balance in treasurers hands	21.37

At the annual meeting held at Monticello, January 18, 1873, the following officers were elected: President- Wm. Sleight; vice-president- H. Ferguson; secretary- J. F. Lewis; treasurer- J. W. Hanaford; executive committe- S. E. Adams, C. B. Jackson, W. H. Lord and James Abell.

At a special meeting held at Monticello, May 3, 1873, it was voted to invite proposals from the several towns in the county, so that the town offering the best inducements might have the benefits of the next county fair. At a meeting of the executive committee held at Monticello, August 16, 1873, the following resolutions was adopted:

WHEREAS, in as much as only two towns in Wright county offer inducements for holding the next county fair agreeably to published notice given June 7, 1873, and as Howard Lake proposes only to build a stockade and fences to a certain extent, and Monticello proposes to apply to the treasurer of the agricultural society one hundred and five dollars for the payment of premiums, the fences and structures being already built, therefore be it.

Resolved, that the next fair be held at Monticello on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd day of October 1873.

The weather was fine and every thing looked favorable, but the fair was not a success in every respect. Only a few entries of stock, vegetables and grain were made. The ladies made quite a display in the hall. There was no regular address delivered this year, but short addresses were made by Adam, Sleight, Stacy and others in the Academy hall. As a whole the fair did not come up to the standard of previous years. There was a great falling off in stock, grain and vegetables. The floral department was excellent, better perhaps than ever before. Had the farmers for whose benefit these fairs were instituted, taken one half the interest that the ladies of Monticello did, it would have been an agricultural display that would have been a credit to the county, but it was anything but that. Public opinion, at least with the citizens of Monticello, was about this, so far as Monticello is concerned the county fair is a worn out institution, it should not be held here another year, let it go to Howard, Delano, Buffalo, Rockford or some other point for a few years, and it may prove a success, the flagging interest cannot be revived here until a sufficient time has elapsed to render it a novelty again. At a special meeting of the executive committee and officers of the society held at Monticello on the 7th of October 1873, it was voted that in consideration of the zeal and unremitting labors of Col. S. E. Adams and lady in rendering our county fairs a success, that we present them in behalf of the Wright County Agricultural Society a pair of silver goblets as a testimonial of our high estimation of their services. Col. Adams was brought

before the committee, and the presentation was made by the secretary with appropriate remarks, which ever responded to by the Col. in fitting words for and in behalf of himself and wife. The report of the treasurer of the society showed $100.00 in the treasury after paying all expenses and premiums, so the society improved financially more this year then it had in previous years with better success at the annual fairs.

The annual meeting was held at Buffalo, January 17, 1874. The following officers were elected: President- Wm. Sleight; vice-president- Thos. Smithson; secretary- J. F. Lewis; treasurer- J. W. Hanaford; executive committee- S. E.Adams chm. Thos. McLeod, James Sturges, Nathan Warner and Herman Erath.

On the 15th of July 1874, a meeting of the executive committee was held at Monticello. A communication was received from citizens of Rockford, stating that if the executive committee decide to hold the next fair in the east or south part of the county, Rockford agrees to furnish halls, yards, stalls and hay free of expense to the society and without trouble to the officers in making preparations. The offer was accepted, and voted to hold the fair at Rockford. The citizens fulfilled their part of the agreement. The fair of 1874 was equal in many respects to previous ones, but outside of Rockford and Greenwood very few persons took an interest in it, and as in Monticello, it was simply local, every town seemed to act as if the fair was held. The first two days of the fair were all that could be wished for, but on Friday it rained nearly all day. Col. W. H.H. Taylor delivered the annual address, and the races did not take place on account of the rain. This year is noted for failures in agricultural fairs; hardly a county society in the state paid expenses. The state society paid only one half of the premiums offered, and added a small amount besides to the funds in the treasurers hands. The officers deserve much credit for making a success when so many other societies made sad failures.

At the annual meeting held at Buffalo, January 17, 1875, the following were elected officers: President- Wm. Sleight; vice-president- Norman Dyer; secretary- J. F. Lewis; treasurer- J. W. Hanaford; executive committee- S. E. Adams chm, Levi Bowen, D. R. Farnham, Geo. Davis and Thos. McLeod. A meetin of the executive committee was held at the same time and place, and it was

voted to hold the next fair at Rockford. At a special meeting of the executive committe held at the court house at Buffalo it was voted that the next annual fair be held at Rockfor, September 29th, 30th and Oct. 1st, 1875. Voted that on the second day of the fair a purse of $10, be awarded the best baseball club in the county, and that a premium of three dollars be given to the best lady equestrian. Voted also that Hon. Ignatius Donnelly be invited to address the society on the last day of the fair. This fair was the best ever held in the county in many respects. The lady equestrian, the baseball club, and the last two days of the fair were very pleasent and the receipts were large, and after paying all expenses and premiums, something was added to the fund of the society.

At the annual meeting held at Buffalo the 16th day of January 1876, the following persons were elected officers: President- Wm. Sleight; vice-president-Alfred Stuart; secretary- J. F. Lewis; treasurer- J. W. Hanaford; executive committee- S.E. Adams chm, D.R.Farnham, C. N. Cooper, Geo. Davis and Thos. Smithson. At this meeting the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the interests of the society demand a permanent location for holding its fairs, and the executive committee are herby instructed to advertise for proposals from towns or individuals who are willing to give a bonus to the society for the establishment of a permanent place for holding the annual fairs in their respective localities.

At the meeting of the executive committee held the same day, it was decided to advertise for proposals or bids for a permanent location of county fairs; bids or proposals to be received by the chairman until February 22, 1876, and the committee adjourned to that day. At a special meeting of the executive committee held at Buffalo, February 22, 1876, only one proposition was received. The citizens of Buffalo proposed to procure sufficient grounds without cost to the society, not less than two acres as long as said grounds were used for the purpose of said fairs, and clear off and fence one acre; also to contribute in cash, labor or material $225 to assist in putting up suitable buildings. On motion it was voted that the county fairs be permanently located at Buffalo, if the proposition of the citizens of Buffalo was fulfilled without expense to the society. The annual fair was held at Buffalo on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of September 1876.

The citizens of Buffalo had laid out a plat of ground on the shore of the lake and enclosed the same with a substantial board fence, and put up a building 16 by 20 * feet; some of the fencing belonging to the society was brought from Monticello, and that was about all of the expense the fair or the fitting up cost the society. The first day was fair and pleasant, but on Thursday the wind from the north blew a cold blast across the lake and the fair grounds being on the lake shore, it was very uncomfortable. But the citizens of Buffalo took an active interest in the fair as it was a new thing and in many respects it was a successful fair and paid all expenses and premiums, and had something left. Col. W. H. H. Taylor delivered the annual address. The races were rather small affairs, as there was no race track, only over hills and hollows.

*The building was more than 20 feet long.-Ed.

At the annual meeting held at the court house in Buffalo, January 20, 1877, Wm. Sleight was elected president, Jackson Taylor vice-president, J. F. Lewis secretary, J. W. Hanaford treasurer; executive committee-S. E. Adams chm., James Sturges, Nathan Warner, D. R. Farnham, John C. Nugent. At a meeting of the executive committee held at Buffalo, August 18, 1877, the following business was transacted: Voted that the annual fair be held at Buffalo on the 19th, 20th, and 21st of September, 1877; that a premium of five dollars be offered for a boat race; that Hon. J. N. Stacy be invited to deliver the annual address; that the society pay the board of the officers during the fair. This was the first fair since 1870, that the society had paid any thing to the officers, not even their board at the time of the fairs. At the annual fair in 1877, for the first time in the history of the society the weather was favorable throughout the three days of the fair, still the effect was not to bring out a larger attendance than usual.

The number of entries was about the same as in previous years, and there seemed to be a falling off in interest. The season was rather unfavorable for corn and vegetables, and the entries in these departments were very small. James and Lewis Sturges and L. H. Bushnell contended for the premium on boat

racing which was awarded to Louis Sturges. J. N. Stacy's address was fully up to the standard established by imported orators heretofore employed in this capacity. It was well delivered and attentively listened to. The executive committee met at Buffalo, October 18, 1877 and the following bills were allowed:

A. Sexton for services as watchman	$ 4.00
W. Mann, gate keeper	6.00
J. C. Nugent, lumber	5.00
S. R. Wells, lumber	4.50
J. Taylor, board bills	5.00
C. E. Oakley, nails	.80
E. Wallace, labor	1.50
W. Cooper, labor	2.00

The fair on the whole was a success, and paid all premiums and expenses, and had a small balance in the treasury.

The annual meeting of the society was held at Buffalo, January 19, 1878, Wm. Sleight was elected president, Jackson Taylor vice-president, J. F. Lewis secretary, J. W. Hanaford Treasurer; executive committee, S. E. Adams, chm, H. E. Jones, Frank Heaton, Nathan Warner and James Sturges. At a meeting of the executive committee held at Buffalo, August 4,1878, voted to hold the annual fair at Buffalo on the 18th, 19th, and 20 of September; also to invite Col. J. H. Stevens to deliver the annual address. The fair was about the same as the previous year, but on account of very unfavorable weather during the first two days the attendance was small. Col. Stevens' address was as usual, excellent and appropriate. There seemed to be a lack of interest manifested by the farmers of the county generally, and but very few towns were represented.

At the annual meeting of the society held at Buffalo, January 18, 1879, John C. Nugent was elected president, Wm Sleight vice-president, P. A. Dufour secretary, J. W. Hanaford treasurer; executive committee, S. E. Adams, chm., Martin Conzet, C. E. Oakley, Nathan Warner and T. C. Porter.

At a meeting of the executive committee held at Buffalo, June 17, 1879, it was voted to hold the annual fair at Buffalo, September 18th, 19th and 20th, 1879. A premium of $15.00 was offered to the best brass band in the county. Also voted that J. C. Nugent and C. E. Oakley be appointed a committee to make all preparations for the fair and supply all that may be necessary at the expense of the society. The fair of 1879 was in many respects a failure, the weather was unfavorable, and the citizens of Buffalo did not take the interest in the matter as they did in former years, but all expenses and premiums were paid and the funds in the hands of the treasurer were not used.

At the annual meeting held at Buffalo, January 17, 1880, Wm. Sleight was again elected president, Nathan Warner vice-president, G. W. Florida secretary, J. W. Hanaford treasurer; executive committee- S. E. Adams, chm,, Martin Conzet, D. R. Farnham, James D. Crandall and J. M. Powers. At a meeting of the executive committee held at Rockford, March 20th, 1880, it was voted that the next annual fair be held at Rockford on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th days of September, 1880. I. Gutzwiller, Jr. Made a proposition to print a premium list of two hundred copies in pamphlet form for $15.00 and to pay back into the treasury of the society one-half of all the proceeds arising from advertising from the business men of Rockford. The proposition was accepted and the pamphlet ordered. Also voted to give a premium of $20 to the best brass band in the county that will discourse music at the fair two days. Also a premium of $5.00 to any person in the county who will write the best essay on agricultural topics to be read at the fair on the last day. A premium of $5.00 was offered to any person under 20 years of age residing in the county for the best specimen of penmanship executed at the fair. It was voted to substitute silver cups and goblets for the cash premiums of three and five dollars. Voted that a premium of $5.00 be offered to the best lady equestrian. The annual fair was successful in many aspects, but as usual very few farmers took an interest. The citizens of Rockford and Greenwood attended generally, and comparatively few from other towns. It has become evident to all that the society must have a permanent location, with grounds fenced large enough for a race course, as horse racing

seems to be the great attraction at all agricultural fairs.

In theory this seems to be wrong, but in practice it is an established fact that no fair or agricultural show can be a success without horse racing. Conservative farmers and agriculturists have written and lectured, and printed long articles against this practice and have endeavored to show that horse racing is no part of an agricultural show or fair, but the successful fairs have been and probably will be for some time to come where there are good horse races. Nearly all societies have discovered this and will act accordingly. The great attraction at the state fair and at the Northwestern exposition at Minneapolis is horse racing, and conservative and also enterprising farmers will go to Minneapolis two or three days in each year, at an expense of ten or fifteen dollars, merely to see the horse races, when they would not go two miles or spend a dollar to help support a county fair, so that the great show at the cities is monopolizing all of the interest and all of the money, and it has become a question whether they will not eventually kill off all county societies within fifty miles of the cities. It seems that the only course to be taken by the Wright county agricultural society is to raise the funds by some means not now known, purchase sufficient lands in some central location, have a race course and buildings all enclosed and in every thing pattern after the monopolists in Minneapolis, unless farmers will learn it is for their interests to patronize a home fair. The citizens of any village in the county cannot support it but for two or three years, then there must be a change or the premiums offered cannot be paid. The premiums paid each year have averaged about $200, all or nearly all for farm products, but still as a rule there is little competition and many premiums offered are not taken. Farmers are not taking interest enough in the matter to bring their stock and farm products to the fair. The fair of 1880 was about like many others, the expenses and premiums were all paid and nothing taken from the general fund which is at present about $300. The expenses were rather more than usual.

At a meeting of the executive committee held at Buffalo, October 2, 1880, the following bills were audited and allowed.

Louis Allars, board bills	$ 19.50
Geo. Cady, police duty	6.00
Albert Davis, police duty	6.00
A.S. Pratt, gate keeper	6.00
G. R. Perkins, building stairs	5.40
D. R. Farnham, tables and stoves	5.00
D. N. McCarter, police duty	5.00
Delano EAGLE, printing	5.39
M. G. Weidenbach, glass and nails	.45
Henry Ellingson, night watchman	4.00
G. W. Florida, lumber	5.00
J. Benner, pine lumber, nails, etc	18.82

There were 280 entries, an increase over any previous year, but there were very few cattle or stock of any kind. Several premiums offered on cattle were not taken.

At the annual meeting of the society held at the court house in Buffalo, January 15, 1881, Martin Conzet was elected president, D. N. McCarter vice-president, G.W. Florida secretary, J. W. Hanaford treasurer; executive committe- S. E. Adams, Chm., C. N. Cooper, S. A. Putnam, Geo. Reppelius, D. R. Farnham. As most of the officers reside in Rockford, the annual fair this year will be held at that place.

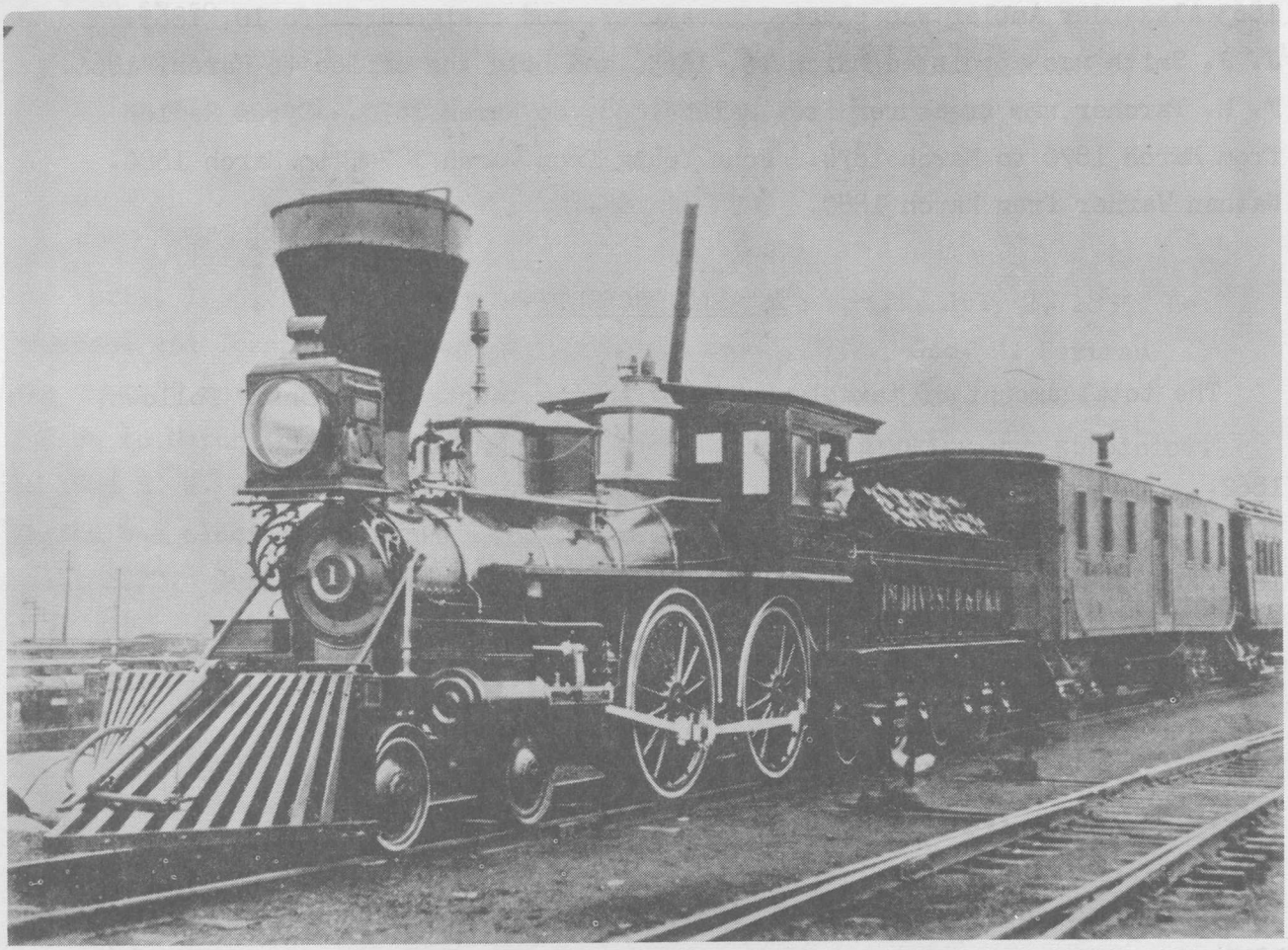
OLD SETTLERS ASSOCIATION

The first meeting was held at Monticello, January 7, 1868, at the house of Wm. V. B. Moore. D. R. Farnham was elected president, Geo. A. J. Overton secretary, Wm. V. B. Moore treasurer. Vice-presidents elected:

Robert S. Holmes, Albion.
A. Ackley, Buffalo.
B. Ambler, Chatham.
Charles Gordon, Corrina.
R. C. Porter, Clearwater.
Jacob Bingenheimer, Frankfort.
J. P. Lyle, Franklin.
A. D. Kingsley, Marysville.
S. E. Adams, Monticello.
A. McDonald, French Lake.
J. L. King, Middleville.
Sam. Allen, Moores Prairie.
W. G. McCrory, Maple Lake.
John McDonald, Otsego.
William Sleight, Rockford.
J. S. Locke, Siver Creek.
Edward Brewster, Victor.
Ezra Stacy, Woodland.

It was resolved that this association shall be composed of men and their wives and families who were residents of this state prior to January 1, 1858, and they were invited to send their names to the secretary and be enrolled as members; that the members of this society meet once in each year on the 22nd of February; that the first regular meeting of this society be held at Buffalo on the 22nd of February 1868. T. R. Briggs, J. E. Warren and Geo. A. J. Overton were appointed a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws to be submitted to the society at the next meeting. On the 22nd day of February 1868, a large meeting was held at the residence of Jackson Taylor in Buffalo,

Banks, stocks and state bonds kept going down until there seemed to be no bottom. Our railroad bonds went down with the rest, and there was danger of the work on the railroads being stopped. A committee was sent by the state and the railroad companies to New York to try and sell bonds. It was useless, and when the bonds could not be negotiated for 20 cents on the dollar, the work of issuing stopped, and the work on the railroads stopped also. The companies were bankrupt and many laborers were never paid for the last month's work. And all of the lands, road beds and franchises of the railroad companies passed into the hands of the state. For two years not much was done in railroad business, but eventually new railroad companies were organized and the legislature transferred the land and all other property forfeited by the old bankrupt companies to the new ones. W. B. Litchfield, E. F. Drake, F. R. Delano and George L. Becker, became the leading railroad men. Not very much progress was made on our railroad; the name was changed and it became the First Division of the St. Paul & Pacific R. R. Co., under the management of George L. Becker as president, and W. B. Litchfield as the money power. The ten miles of road from St. Paul to Minneapolis was put into operation, and the branch line to St. Cloud. Then came the war of the rebellion and railroad building was stopped for a season. In 1866 the main line was located through the big woods during the winter of 1866 and 1867. The road was finished to Delano in this county in October 1868, and through the county to Cokato in July 1869. With the advent of the railroad, the west part of the county settled up very fast, and nearly all of the land was taken up by the close of the year 1869. The railroad company owned nearly one-third part of the land in the county, and as the title to these lands were still vested in the United States, they were not subject to taxation. It was felt by many that these lands the odd sections, should be taxed as they were being improved and increased in value each year by building roads, school houses and many other improvements, and made valuable at the expense and hard work of the settlers.



This was the first passenger train to reach Clearwater when the track was laid through the northern part of Wright County.

COUNTY TREASURERS

April 5, 1855, James C. Beckman was appointed treasurer; July 21, he resigned and Row Brasie was appointed. In 1857 Nathan Fletcher was elected treasurer and held the office until March, 1862. G. D. George was elected treasurer in the fall of 1861, and held the office until March, 1864. In 1863 Alexander Ambler was elected treasurer, and resigned March 10, 1865. J. J. Smith was appointed March 16, 1865, and held the office to March, 1866. F. M. Parcher was treasurer from March 1866, to March 1870. Cyrus Redlon from March 1870 to March 1874. John Young from March 1874, to March 1880. Nathan Warner from March 1880.

TAXABLE PROPERTY

The total amount of taxable property in the county has been as follows:

1862	$ 408,817
1863	438,610
1864	500,239
1865	576,748
1866	734,153
1867	906,365
1868	1,022,263
1869	1,100,460
1870	1,882,463
1871	1,129,529
1872	1,255,940
1873	1,346,468
1874	2,549,056
1875	2,005,110
1876	2,906,950
1877	3,043,654
1878	3,367,180
1879	3,536,524
1880	3,684,523

The average taxable value of the lands for the past 10 years has been as follows:

In 1872 $3.12 per acre.

In 1874 $6.19 per acre.

In 1876 $6.44 per acre.

In 1878 $7.29 per acre.

In 1880 $7.59 per acre.

The total value of exempt property in the county for the year 1880, including all school, church and other public property, is $99,467.

SHERRIFFS

April, 1855, Herbert W. McCrory was appointed sheriff; July 2, 1855, he resigned and Joseph C. Walker was appointed until 1857. Geo. M. Bertram was sheriff until January, 1860; then W. S. Brookins to 1864, and Chas. Judson to March 1865, when Judson resigned and H. W. Brookins was appointed. In 1865 H. W. Bookins was elected and held the office until 1868. Isaac S. Crooks was elected and was sheriff until 1870. W. H. Lord held the office until 1872. John C. Nugent has been sheriff since that time.

CHAS. A. SCHULTZ & CO.

AGENTS FOR

THE WHITE

And other standard

SEWING MACHINES.

tf-47 MONTROSE, MINN.

Paul & Pacific R.R.Company against F. M. Parcher, treasurer, and Henry Kreis, auditor of Wright county, Minnesota.

At the regular term of the district court held at Buffalo, June 2, 1868 this case was called. H. R. Bigelow for the plaintiff, H. L. Gordon for the defendent. About all there was to the first trial of this case that was interesting was the well studied pleas of both lawyers. Mr. Bigelow made a very long and interesting plea; he had made himself master of the subject. Mr. Gordon with his usual earnestness followed, and for long and exhaustive argument was hard to be beat. With such a subject and such lawyer it was one of the hardest legal battles ever fought in the county. The case was decided in favor of the R.R. Company, and an appeal taken to the supreme court, and the county attorney was in his element. Although he had always pretended that lawyers fees would cost the county nothing; yet at the September meeting in 1868, the board of the supreme court. Money and fame was just what Gordon was after. The decision of the supreme court sustained the action of the district court, and the matter ended. This on the whole was an expensive experiment for the county, not only in the money paid to the county attorney, but in many other things. The railroad company could not act very friendly toward Wright county, and in many ways showed that it believed the people were opposed to railroads and to the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad in particular. Not only this, the expense to the county in putting the large quantity of lands on the tax list and advertising them, and the necessary expense attending law suits. And it took several years to make a settlement with the state. In fact a final settlement was almost impossible on account of the large state tax for the years 1867 and 1868, claimed by the state from the county which was never paid into the county treasury, but according to the books was and is still claimed by the state, and has been a source of annoyance and trouble to the county officers to the present time.

THE DISTRICT COURT

The first general term of the district court for the 4th judicial district was held at Monticello, Dec. 4, 1857, Edward O. Hamlin, judge; James Chambers, clerk. Hamlin was judge until March 20, 1860. Then

Charles E. Vanderburgh, who has been judge for twenty years and at present holds that position. He has had an associate, Judge A. H. Young, since 1878. But excepting two or three terms of court, Vanderburgh has been the presiding judge in this county since March, 1860.

James Chambers was clerk until October 1859. Thomas Chambers to September, 1861. James Chambers and H. B. Hill, deputy, until December 1865. A. F. Barker from 1865 to 1870. W.W. Brasie from 1870 to 1873. George A. Hoffman from 1873 to 1880.

COUNTY AUDITOR

The first county auditor was J. O. Haven from April 1855 to April 1857. C.B. Jordan from 1857 to April 1859. Ed. P. Abbott from April to September 1859. John O. Haven from September 1859 to April 1860. James Chambers from April 1860 to Jan. 1, 1861. James W. Mulvey from January 1861 to March 1, 1863. Henry Kreis from March 1863 to March 1871. J. R. Ames from March 1871 to 1873. G. A.Ruckoldt from 1873 to March 1, 1875. William Tubbs from March 1, 1875 to March 7, 1881. J. N. Stacy present auditor.

INSANE PERSONS IN THE COUNTY

The first insane person sent from Wright county to the insane hopital at St. Peter, was John Coolett of Buffalo, January 10, 1863. He has been followed by a large number, in fact Wright county has been largely represented in that institution during the past eighteen years. Some from almost every town. But if Wright county is not behind other equally populos counties in the state in patronizing the institution at St. Peter, she has no more patients than many other counties. Insanity does not seem to be a local disease and is not confined to any particular part of the state, but has become a general evil without any known cause, except it may be, the citizens of the state are very ambitious and disappointment cannot be endured and suicide or insanity follow.

In such cases the opinions, beliefs or views of the men who took part in the transactions will be the history, until set aside or contradicted by higher and better authority. It is remarkable how many versions of a transaction of twenty-five years ago can be given by persons who pretended that they were present at the time, and know all about the matter. There is no other way to get at the truth or actual facts only to hear all sides and then use reason to decide which is correct, publish the history as near as possible to what seem to be the facts, then let the public decide and make corrections.

In writing the history of the towns we are well aware that we cannot avoid giving offence in some cases, only by silence on some particular points, or by leaving out the important facts in the history of some towns, as we should be happy to please all and have no complaints made. So we should be much pleased if there was **nothing** in the history of the several towns in the county but what is pleasant and agreeable, but facts are stubborn things and we must do the work assigned to us without fear or favor. The history so far is only the introduction to the history. In the early records in the county and the towns there was no record of deaths, marriages or births, and in many cases there is a dispute about the first of each. The parties to these disputes and contradictory statements must consider that somebody is mistaken and after using all diligence the historian must decide which is right, and although somebody may be offended, all parties cannot be correct in their statements. We have tried to get the facts and shall publish them. Then if there is an appeal and it shall appear at any future time that we are mistaken it will be corrected. The vice-presidents of the old settler's association in each town should act in the matter and collect what they think would be interesting, and have as correct a history of the town published as possible, as a person can get better and more correct history of his own town than one who is not a resident. Next week we shall commence the history of the towns and villages of Wright county.

TOWNSHIP OF ALBION

is township No. 120, range 27. The township was originally all timber land. There are fourteen lakes in the township, covering about 2,500 acres; some of them are quite large. Granite lake in section 20, 29, and 30, is the largest lake in the township. Swartouts and William lakes in the south part of the town and Henshaw in sections 14 and 15, Albion lake in section 9 and 10 are the next largest. The lakes are clear and pure water, and are well stocked with fish, pickerel, pike and bass. There are many natural meadows, and a large amount of hay is cut of the best quality. The soil is a deep dark loam on a subsoil of clay. There is no town in the county that has better soil than Albion, and the crops of all kinds are very fine; the average yield per acre is above that of any town in the county; there is no sandy or light soil and hardly an acre of waste or poor land. Of course it is slow opening a farm, and there are very few large farms in the town. About one-eigth of the land is under cultivation, beside the natural meadow land.

From the center of the town to Monticello is about 18miles, about the same distance to Clearwater; 12 miles to Buffalo; 10 miles to Howard and Smith lake. On account of the distance from any market and also on account of all timber in the neighboring towns, and consequently very poor roads, the town has not settled up very fast, as farming has not been very profitable. There is not any village in the town and there has never been any lawyer, minister or physician, or meeting house or church, although the town has been settled about twenty-five years.

THE FIRST SETTLERS

The first settlers in the town were Thomas G. Holmes and B. E. Emery. They were natives of Canada, but had resided in the state of Michigan for several years. They came to Albion the 18th day of May 1856, and took up claims on the south-west quarter of section 10 and the south-eastern quarter of section 9, on the bank of Albion lake. There were no roads through the town, but during the previous winter parties had been through the timber from Monticello to Forest City and had cut out something of a trail, in fact had been through with a team, but the road was impassable in summer.

Holmes and Emery built a cabin on the SW¼ of section 10 during the month of June that year. A townsite was surveyed and platted, and during the townsite and city mania in 1856 and 1857, lots and shares were sold to some extent. But the city named by the Holmes brothers after an ancient name of England, signifying chalk-bluffs (not very appropriate) never had much notoriety, and as it was twenty-five years ago, there is now only the Holmes' house in the whole city. Robert S. Holmes came to Albion in August 1856, and with two brothers besides, they have made their homes in Albion to the present time. They have not cleared or cultivated a large farm, but generally have been busy about something, hunting, trapping, fishing or dealing in ginseng. Either Robert S. or Thomas G. has been postmaster for twenty-two years.

ROADS

In 1857 the Monticello and Forest City road was laid out through the town, and considerable labor and money was expended to make it passable, and for several years, or until the St. Paul & Pacific railroad was completed through the big woods, was one of the principal avenues of travel to the western prairies.

In 1858 the Albion and Buffalo road was laid out and opened. There are many roads laid out and partially opened, but no good roads in any direction. The town has received very little help from the county or the state and the settlers have been obliged to build their own roads, and with the heavy timber to clear and the numberous small bridges or culverts to put in, it has been a heavy tax on them, and as the labor has to be distributed to many roads it is no wonder they have no good ones.

SCHOOLS

There are five school districts in the town. The first school established was in 1860, Henry Sears, teacher. The first schools were kept in private houses. The first school house was built in 1866, in school district No. 62. But as there had been one of those famous quarrels for which Albion is noted

about almost everything of a public character, about the location of the school house, it was burned, it was supposed by an incendiary, before it was finished. In 1867 the old quarrel was finally settled and a school house finished. The town cannot boast of splendid school houses or of first class schools.

The citizens are not united in raising money to build school houses or in voting money to support schools. Many persons in each school district are willing to help support better schools and also to build better school houses, but a large majority of the citizens are opposed to substantial improvements in that direction. Three months school in the year is all that they want, all the time they can spare their children from work on the farm, to waste at school, as they seem to think.

OTHER OLD SETTLERS

A. J. Phillips settled in Albion in October 1858; he came from Indiana, settled on section 20 where he no resides. Thomas Dunham came about the same time. William Taylor, M. A. Taylor, G. L Ingraham, W.R. Butterworth and his son. W. H. Butterworth, came to Albion in May 1857, from New York. They were considered a great addition to the small settlement as they were quite wealthy and well educated, enerprising and intelligent gentlemen; they took up pre-emption claims in section 10, adjoining the townsite of Albion and on the shore of the lake; had made considerable improvement on their claims by the first of July and had sent for their families. But on the 5th day of July 1857, William H. Butterworth, the young man, in attempting to cross the lake in a canoe was upset or the canoe filled with water and sunk and he was drowned. This was the first death in Albion, and the sad affair cast a deep shadow of gloom over the entire community, as he was a genial favorite and much respected by all. His father was almost distracted and in a short time left the state never to return. The body of W. H. Butterworth was recovered and buried near the shore of Albion lake, where it now lies alone with no stone or monument or anything to mark the place with but woods, and one or two persons know the exact spot. If the authorities of the town would take the trouble to mark the place with a stone or remove the body to a more suitable location, it would be a good deed of charity. But, also,

the thing would not end perhaps with the body of the lamented Butterworth; all over the town on almost every farm the dead lie buried. There is no cemetery or public burying ground in Albion, and for twenty-five years the system of burying the dead on the home farm still continues. This may be all very well if there were no changes in the ownership of the land. But land changes hands and the new purchaser does not respect the graves of the children or the friends of his predecessors.

The graves are soon plowed over and forgotten, desecrated and unknown. At the next annual town meeting it is hoped that the citizens will take some steps to remedy this evil.

Another of the first settlers is Charles Judson. He is a native of New York state; he came to Albion with his family, December 27th, 1858, and settled on section 26. That winter and the winter of 1859 and 1860 his house was visited very often by Indians, Sioux hunters; they camped about a mile from his claim. The winter of the last named yaar they had a battle near his house with a war party of Chippewas. Several on both sides were killed and wounded. The next day the Sioux departed and it was the last of their hunting in the timber. Mr. Judson was elected sheriff of Wright county in the fall of 1863, but resigned the office after serving one year. He helped build the first mile of railroad in the state of Minnesota, but sub-contractors, Stark & Merrill, drew the pay and ran away and the workmen got nothing, so Mr. Judson gave up railroading. He removed to section 10 near Albion lake in 1867, and built the first frame barn and the first granery in the town. and has one of the best farms in the township.

ALBION-ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWN

On the 6th of April 1858, the board of county commissioners divided the county into towns. Albion comprised township No. 120 range 27, and township No. 120 range 28; the latter township is now French Lake. The first town meeting was held May 11th, 1858, and the following persons were elected town officers:

Town Clerk-M. A. Taylor.
Supervisors- R.S. Holmes, Chm; C. L. Ingraham, W. R.Butterworth.
Justices of the Peace- T. G. Holmes, W.R. Butterworth.
R. S. Holmes was a leading member of the board of county supervisors during the years 1858 and 1859.

CRIMES

Albion has been noted for petty quarrels and neighborhood feuds and two murders. The supposed strangling of a child by Euzeb Perrant, for which crime he had his trial and was sentenced to the state prison for life, and the same after a second trial, but he has since been pardoned by the governor. And also the killing of Mr. William Buckman, by shooting on July 5th 1879, by Mrs. Christina Sieg and her son Charles Sieg, for which crime they were tried at the April term of the district court in 1880, found guilty and Mrs. Sieg sent to Stillwater for three years, and Charles Sieg to reform school, he being only thirteen years of age.

HENRIETTE SPENCER

The most remarkable event in the history of Albion is the disappearance of a little girl two and a half years old, a daughter of John F. Spencer, who resided on section 12. Mr. Spencer has two other children older than "Etta" as they called her. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the 16th day of September, 1879, Mr. Spencer was at work in his clearing

about twenty rods from the house, Mrs. Spencer was in the house doing the house work, the three little girs, the oldest about seven years of age, started from the house to go out where there father was at work. He saw them on the opposite side of the fence not more than four or five rods from him; the older two were making chaplet or wreath of colored sumac leaves and putting it on Etta's head.

Just then their mother called them to come into the house and he saw them all start for the house, distance less than twenty rods. The two eldest girs came into the house and Mrs. Spencer asked "where is Etta?" "she is coming" said the children, but as she did not come into the house in less than five minutes, Mrs. Spencer went to the door to see where she was. As she did not see Etta she went out to where Mr. Spencer was, and who, when asked where Etta was, said that she went to the house five minutes ago. They both began to look after her, and about a half an hour, they came to the conclusion that the child was lost. There was at that time a threshing machine running about a half mile from Spencer's and some twelve men with it. They were informed about the missing child. Immediately they stopped work and all went to look after the lost child, and before night about forty persons were hunting. All that night they hunted with lanterns and the next day nearly the whole town turned out to look for the lost child, with some from Maple Lake and French Lake. For two or three days nearly 200 persons were engaged in the search. Every foot of land for miles was very carefully looked over. As the little girl was not out of sight of her parents more than two or three minutes until she was missed, and the almost immediate thorough search made for her, and the fact that there is no lake or marsh or bog in the vicinity, and no probability that there were any wild beasts in or about the place or any signs of any being in the neighbor hood, it is very strange and wonderful where the child could go to. Etta was a very interesting little girl, a beauty, the pet of the family, and it was a hard blow to the parents. Mr. Spencer was almost distracted, and has since that time traveled over a large portion of the State, and in Wisconsin, looking for his lost child. Like the Charley Ross case there have been rumors and

reports that the child was stolen by the Gypsies, as there was a band in the State about that time, but there is no evidence that they ever came to Wright county. Mr. Spencer went to several clairvoyants or "spiritual mediums" and they always told him that the child was taken by a woman. Of course there is no reliance to be placed on such information. But drowning men, it is said, will catch at straws, and he has followed the Gypsies to St. Paul, St. Peter, and all over the State and to Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, in fact has spent nearly all of his time for a year and a half hunting for the lost child, and had the assistance of the chief of police of Minneapolis and St. Paul; he has spent all of his own money and property and has been helped with a liberal hand by the citizens of Wright county, but without avail. The case is as mysterious now as it was nearly two years ago, and the citizens of Albion and all others who have been well acquainted with the case and all of the circumstances connected with it, have settled down to the conviction that the little girl was not carried to a great distance, and that an old grudge, such as jumping a homestead, or something of the kind, was the cause of the loss of Henreitte Spencer.

MILLS

There is no water power in the town. A. J. Phillips has a steam saw mill on the bank of Granite lake of about 25 horse power, which is run during the winter and spring and furnishes a large amount of native lumber to the settlers for building purposes. Mr. John Buckman in the south part of the town has a steam saw mill that is run during the winter. Both of these gentlemen own threshing machines which do good work during the season of threshing.

STORES-GINSENG

There are no stores in the town. During the summers of 1860 and 1861, a small stock of goods was kept at the Holme house, which was the headquarters of the ginseng buyers and diggers, and when the ginseng season ended the stock of goods was removed. Albion was noted for ginseng and many persons went to the town for anumber of years to dig roots. It is impossible to give any

statistics, as there was no account kept of the large amount dug and sold. But from personal knowledge and observation it is believed that Albion produce double the quantity of ginseng of any town in the big woods. But the town did not receive much benefit from this source, as nearly all was taken by outsiders and non-residents.

THE INDIAN SCARE

In 1862 and also in 1863, the whole population left. Many went to St. Paul or Minneapolis, but the majority stopped at Monticello. Farms and crops were abandoned and the latter ruined. A six weeks or two months absence was long enough to ruin almost everything on the farms. Two or three persons from French Lake and Albion stayed in and about the Holmes house most of the time, but in a frightened state, not daring to look around or save much from the general destruction of farm crops. The population of Albion for the past twenty years was as follows:

In 1860, 78.
In 1865, 87.
In 1870, 281.
In 1875, 358.
In 1880, 786.



THRESHING MACHINE OWNED BY:
John Lundeen, George Johnson, Andrew Johnson of
Albion Township in the year 1885



These hardy Albion residents were assembled for a cabin-raising.

TOWN OF BUFFALO

Is township No. 120 range 25, and is located nearly in the centre of Wright county. It was originally nearly all timber land, interspersed with many natural meadows of luxurient grass. The soil, like most of the timber land, is a deep rich, dark loam, with a clay subsoil. About 3,500 acres in the town is water--twenty lakes. Buffalo lake is partly in this town, also Pelican Lake in sections 1, 12, and 13, the largest lake in the county. Pulaski lake in sections 15 and 16 is the largest lake entirely in the town, covering about 800 acres. Lake Constance, Schmidt's lake, Lake Mary, Washington lake, Green Mountain lake, are the next largest. All of the lakes are well stocked with fish, and Pulaski and Buffalo lakes are noted fishing places.

ROADS

Very good roads are leading in many directions from the village of Buffalo, on the east side of Buffalo lake, and have been built by the citizens generally, with very little help from the county or state. Buffalo is south-westerly from Monticello 10 miles, with a good road; north-westerly from Rockford 10 miles; north from Delano, the present nearest or most available railroad station, 13 miles, and also northerly from Montrose 9 miles.

THE NAME

The name Buffalo is from Buffalo lake, which was so named by the Indians, or Indian traders, many years ago, on account of the large number of buffalo fish in the lake. The lake was a famous camping ground of the Sioux, where they came in summer for fishing and for gathering cranberries in the vicinity, and in the winter for hunting deer. It is not known that the Sioux had any Permanent or established village on the shore of Buffalo lake, but in later

years the Winnebagoes had a large village in Buffalo. In 1855 the houses or teepees covered the entire space between where the saw mill now is and the ravine between the American house and the court house, many of them quite substantial buildings. Most of them were square, made of poles and covered with bark or bushes. Some few patches of corn were cultivated by squaws, and the red men spent their time in fishing and hunting small game and gathering cranberries in summer, and hunting deer and trapping in winter. Here the annual payments were made, and a trading post established at the west end of Lake Pulaski. In 1851 Mr. Brissette, an Indian trader living at Lake Calhoun, four miles west of Minneapolis, with several other French pioneers, cut a road through the timber from Calhoun to Buffalo, by the way of the west side of Medicine Lake, Independence lake and west side of Lake Sarah, crossing Crow river at Rockford, then going north of the present Rockford and Buffalo road, crossing the creek between the marsh and lake near where the dwelling house of George Sook now stands. It was a crooked road and rather narrow, but they made many journeys to Buffalo with the famous Red river carts, loaded with goods for the trading post for Indians, and returned loaded with furs, venison, dried buffalo fish and cranberries in their season. The first settlers used this old trader's road as late as 1857 and 1858.

THE FIRST SETTLERS

Amasa Ackley is a native of the state o New York. Came to Minnesota in the spring of 1854 and settled at Shakopee on the first day of November 1855. In company with George A.J. Overton, he came to Buffalo and selected a claim on section 30, and returned to Shakopee. The land he now occupies, a part of the claim, is now part of the village of Buffalo. Mr. Overton took a claim

adjoining. Mr. Ackley returned the first day of February 1856. Mr. James Griffin came with his team to move Ackley and Overton, and concluded to settle at Buffalo. They had to cut roads through the timber for many miles. Mr. Griffin took a claim on the northwest quarter of section 32, and returned to Shakopee for his family and arrived with them at Buffalo on the 15th day of February 1856, and has resided at the same place since that time. Mr. Griffin is a colored man, was born in Prince George county, state of Maryland, in 1824. He served four years in the U. S. navy, from his 19th to his 24th year, when he learned the ship carpenter's trade; he was married to Miss Mary Brown at Philadelphia in 1849, went to Pittsburgh, Pa., where he worked at steamboat building. Worked on the "Minnesota Belle" and came to Minnesota on her first trip, and settled at Shakopee in 1853. He has worked at farming and at carpentering, but is now janitor in the court house.

Mr. Overton was a busy man; held many town offices, was a real estate dealer, attorney at law, store keeper and many other kinds of business. He removed to Morris, Stevens county in 1875, and died in March 1881.

Moses S. Calkins was another of the first settlers, and David Calkins, his brother, Daniel Gray, Thomas Smithson and S. B. Culver, all settled in the town in the spring of 1856. Doc Culver, as he was called, took a claim on section 20 at the west end of Lake Pulaski, the old Indian trading post. Thomas Smithson settled on the northeast part of the same lake on section 8. Daniel Gray took a claim adjoining Ackley's and a part of it is now in the village. J. M. Keeler and Mr. Odell came the same year. Mr. Jackson Taylor came to Buffalo on the 20th of August 1856; he is a native of Kentucky, but spent about ten years in the state

of Iowa before coming to Buffalo. He purchased the claim of Daniel Gray and took an interest in the townsite. He has been postmaster nearly twenty years; has been engaged in farming, hotel and mill business, and is one of the prominent citizens of Buffalo.

FIRST BIRTH AND DEATH.

The first child born in Buffalo was William M. Smithson, son of Thomas Smithson, born May 20th 1856, and died May 31st 1856. Mr. Smithson went to Monticello to purchase a coffin and get a minister to attend the funeral, but could get neither coffin nor minister, so he went home, made a coffin himself, and C. W. Hudson, a near neighbor and a new settler, read Episcopal burial services at the grave.

THE FIRST MARRIAGE

Was James Sturgis and Ellen Dudley, married July 4th 1860.

BUFFALO-ORGANIZATION.

In January 1857, an election precinct was organized, called Buffalo, and extended to the west line of the county. The precinct was established by the board of county commissioners and the following were appointed precinct officers: judges of election, Amasa Ackley, Moses S. Calkins, Levi B. Culver; justice of the peace, G. A. J. Overton; constable, A. Ackley; overseer of roads, Moses S. Calkins. The place of holding election was the dwelling house of A. Ackley.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

The town was organized and the first town meeting held May 11th 1858, and the following were elected town officers: Town clerk, J. M. Keeler; supervisors, Jackson Taylor, Amasa Ackley, Moses S. Calkins; assessor, B. Ambler; justices of the peace, David S. Calkins, J. M. Keeler. Jackson Taylor, by virtue of his office as chairman, became a member of the county board.

THE FIRST CHURCH.

The first church organized was Baptist, organized in 1858, by Rev. M. Weeks, but the church has not been very prosperous. The first Sabbath school was organized in 1858, Thomas Hughs, superintendent. The first district school was organized May 1st 1858. Mrs. D. Blakely, teacher. Buffalo has generally had good schools and school house.

The town was settled up in part during the years 1856 and 1857. Not many of the settlers were wealthy, and as in the other timber towns, but small crops were raised, and what surplus there was was sold at low prices, consequently when the hard times of 1858 came there was much actual suffering, but the ginseng trade of 1859 and 1860 helped them wonderfully. A drying house was established at Buffalo and many thousand dollars in cash paid for roots. Many poor men paid for their farms, others paid off old debts and farmers and others gained new life from the ginsing business.

In the war of the great rebellion the town took a patriotic part and many of the citizens enlisted. Their names will be given in their

proper place.

INDIAN WAR FORTS.

When the news of the Indian massacre in 1862, reached Buffalo there was a wild stampede. Many of the settlers went to Monticello and a few to Rockford and to Minneapolis. The town was abandoned to its fate, as it was currently reported and believed that the Indians were in the immediate neighborhood; that the settlers in Albion were all killed and the houses burned, and as it was a smoky, dark day in August, the badly frightened ones would point to the smoke in the west and bewail the fate of the people of Albion and hasten pell mell to some place of refuge in a neighboring town. Horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, teams with household goods, and men, women and children crying, and paying no respect to the wants of others, hurrying on to save their scalps. One woman, however, had to stop on the way for a short time. By the road side near the farm of Warren G. Leonard a pair of twins were born, but the mother and babies arrived at Monticello witnout losing their scalps. The town of Monticello was full, but many of the citizens of Buffalo found shelter, others camped out. Many of the men assisted in building the fort or stockade around the academy building, and the farms and business of the village of Buffalo was left to take care of itself for nearly six weeks. Of course crops were nearly ruined. Then they returned one by one and confidence was restored. A few left never to return, but peace and prosperity was restored.

Dr. R. O. Cady came to Buffalo in June 1862. He came from the then troubled state of Missouri; had been a physician and farmer; he bought the northwest quarter of section 28, of Guy Carlton, and commenced farming. He was one of the refugees in the scare of 1862, and with his family went

to Monticello. But a six weeks' absence convinced him that he could not be successful as a farmer and leave his farm that length of time to take care of itself. The Doctor liked to hunt the bounding deer, and one day in the latter part of June 1863, as he was watching a runway about a mile southeast from his house near a small meadow, instead of a deer there walked into the meadow from the northeast a tall, war painted savage of the Sioux persuasion, followed by another, and another, until eleven stood before him not many rods distant. They looked around for a moment, then struck southwest across the meadow in single file, two of them carried bundles on their heads or backs and seemed to be squaws. The Doctor's first impulse was to shoot, but recollecting that he had but a single barrel muzzle loading rifle, he was hardly a match for nearly a dozen well armed Indians; he let them pass. If he had been armed with a Henry or Winchester rifle or any one of the repeating rifles, he would have made sad havoc among them, as he is a quick, sure marksman. He followed them at a reasonable safe distance for a mile or two until he was sure that they were going straight away to the southwest, then hastened home to his family. He did not make public the events of the day, not even to his own family, only to one son, who with him kept watch all night.

The next day the report of the Mead Indian battle in the west part of Rockford reached Buffalo. This was supposed at the time to be pure fiction, and very few people to-day will believe that Alden Meads had a fight with eleven Indians and coming out first best without a scratch. But no one doubts Dr. Cady, and the number of Indians the same day or the night before, and the Indians going in the direction, makes the pretended Mead fight probable. In a day or two the news of the murder of the Dustin family started another exodus. But Dr. Cady, Jackson Taylor, A. Ackley,

J. M. Keeler and others, by using great exertions, pursuaded the frightened citizens to wait, take the sober second thought and build a fort or stockade in Buffalo. The men went to work with a will and a fort was built on the shore of the lake nearly opposite or a little south of the house of Jackson Taylor. A ginseng drying house was within the enclosure. The fort was 60x60 feet, 8 feet high with bastions at each corner, and built of heavy, hewed or pealed logs, and would have been good protection in case of an attack by the Indians. After the first day every one took hold of the work in earnest and the thing was accomplished in a few days, and the citizens of Buffalo felt compartively safe, and it was much better for all than to run away as they did in 1862.

BUFFALO-THE SETTLERS.

Many of the citizens of the town are Americans, especially in and about the village, but there are some natives of England, successful farmers in town. Amongst them Geo. Davis and Emanuel Richards, in the west part of the town; Fred E. Stokes, an early settler in the east part, has accumulated a large property by farming and stock raising; also several first class Irish farmers, and a goodly number of Scandinavians; but the most numerous of any one nationality are Germans, in the south and east part of the town. Nearly all of the farmers are independent; mortgaged farms and farm property are few and all are on the road to wealth and prosperity; as a whole they are enterprising and industrious. The large family of Varners, most of them early settlers, are from the Key Stone state, and are noted for enterprise and hard work, and are making good farms. John Hatch, Geo. R. Covart and W. G. Leonard have about the only prairie farms in town.

RAILROADS.

There are no railroads in the town, but several have been talked of or projected. The Minneapolis & Northwestern in 1875, made a proposition that if the town would give as a bonus $10,000 in bonds they should have a railroad built from Minneapolis by the first of January 1878. The town voted the bonds, but the railroad has not been built. But Buffalo being the county seat and an enterprising town, will not remain a long time without a railroad.

POPULATION.

When the town was organized and until 1862, the present town of Chatham and six sections now in the town of Rockford, were a part of Buffalo, which accounts for the large population in 1860, larger than in 1865 and 1870.

The U.S. census of 1869 shows 600; 1865, 527; 1870, 508; 1875, 597; 1880, 718, including the village with 143.

Buffalo has not increased in population very fast, considering it has been the county seat since 1868; but being an inland town and having no water power nor railroad, its wealth and prosperity has mostly been by farming. In 1880 the principal crops raised were as follows:

Wheat 1,536 acres; oats 376; corn 406; potatoes 54; beans 3; sugar cane 8; cultivated hay 68; total acres 2,451. Apple trees growing, 1,201; apple trees bearing, 536; milch cows 239; sheep 993; wool produced 3,252 pounds; horses 118; beef cattle 76; hogs 105; number farms 75.

SOLDIERS

The persons who enlisted in the army of the United States during the war of 1861, were as follows:

George A.J. Overton, Com. Sergeant, 2nd Regt.

S. Chamberlain, Co. 2nd Regt.

J.M. Gilbert, Co. C, 2nd Regt.

George H. Frye, Co. F, 2nd Regt.

Alex Lamson, Co. F, 2nd Regt.

Charles W. Hudson, Co. A. 3rd Regt.

Isaiah Berthiaume, Co. I, 3rd Regt.

O.G. Beldon, Co. B, 3th Regt.

Joseph Steffes, Co. D, 4th Regt.

James G. Nugent, Co. B, 6th Regt.

Francis Patterson, " " "

F. Penner, " " "

E.M. Rathburn, " " "

James Ambler, Co. E, 8th Regt.

Albert Erath, " " "

Herman Erath, " " "

Louis Gayette, " " "

Wm. McPherson, " " "

Jackson Taylor, 1st Lieut., 2nd Battery

James F. Ryan, Corporal, " "

Charles Donlinger, Private, 2nd Battery

Frederic Burnham, " "

G.W. Bartholamew, " "

E.T. Tilloison, Private, 2nd Battery

The above are the volunteers, if any others served in the army or navy there is no record of their names.

BUFFALO--THE VILLAGE

The village proper was surveyed and platted in 1856, but has never been incorporated; it was entered as a town site by A. Ackley, G.A.J. Overton and Jackson Taylor, comprising within its limits 320 acres in the east half of section 30, and in the north east quarter of section 31. The first dwelling house was built and occupied by Amasa Ackley.

STORES

In 1856 the first store was built by Moses Calkins opposite Taylor's hotel, the site then being what is now Mrs. Dudley's garden. In 1857 Moses sold out to his brother David S. Calkins, but the store under his management did but a small business until 1861, when it closed for three or four years, and Buffalo was without a store. In the spring of 1865, E.T. Tillotson opened a small store at or near what is now the Munding place, but sold out in 1856 to W. Horn; the same store was kept for a few years by G.A.J. Overton, and in 1868 was changed into a drug store and managed by Fred Young. Mr Young built a store opposite the old court house, and at his death in 1869, was succeeded by W.H. Lord, who remained proprietor until April 1874, when C.E. Oakley and E.J. Cutts commenced business under the firm name of Cutts & Oakley; as the new firm were thorough business men, and could invest considerable money in stock, the store from that time became flourishing. On the first of April 1877, Mr. Cutts sold his interest to his partner, and moved to Howard Lake; Mr. Oakley carries a full stock of everything generally found in a country store, and is

in every respect prosperous. S.A. Putnam has been in business opposite the new court house, about three years, and has a full stock of dry goods, groceries and hardware; his store is in a prosperous condition. Mr. Kliever's store on the same street which was started in 1880, is doing a good business; the proprietor was formerly in trade at Hanover; besides his store, he also owns a saloon, and wonderful to relate, manages to keep the same without the trouble and disorder common to such establishments. In 1880, the citizens of Buffalo voted almost unanimously against granting licenses to saloon keepers; but when Mr. Kliever opened a saloon the citizens did not interfere, knowing that he would keep a quiet place; the saloon in itself is not to blame for the trouble caused, but the lawless manner in which it may be kept by an unprincipled proprietor.

SALOONS

Joseph Payant bought out T.R. Barrett who succeeded Bill Horn in 1868; and kept a store and saloon from 1869 to 1872, when he sold out to Anthony Munding. Munding's saloon was not one of the best kind, and he was subjected to numerous prosecutions and fines, but somehow managed to keep at the business until his death in April 1881. Henry Mashenser, another saloon keeper, started business in 1876, and was also subjected to many fines and imprisonments, all on account of keeping a disorderly, noisy saloon, but he quit the business in the spring of 1880, and left the place. Louis Krack kept a saloon for a short time, but the business being poor, soon died a natural death. In 1879, the Gorman brothers built a billiard hall and saloon, and in 1880, sold out to the Bryant brothers who are still in the business.

HOTELS.

Jackson Taylor has kept a public house for nearly twenty years, and the old settlers when in Buffalo always patronize the table of Mr.

and Mrs. Taylor. The Windsor is the largest hotel in town; it was opened in 1877, and as a first class country hotel it has always prospered under the management of Mr. Richard Knights. The Sturges house was built in 1869, and kept by Lewis Sturges until May 1879, when it was sold to Chas. L. Harvey, who repaired it and changed the name to The American hotel. Mr. Harvey died in 1880, and the hotel has since been kept by his widow, and the travelling public speak in very high terms both of the hotel and its lady proprietor; some of the county officers, make their homes at the American. On the whole Buffalo is well supplied with good hotels.

MANUFACTORIES.

In 1859, Mr Taylor purchased the steam saw mill at Rockford, and moved it to Buffalo, but as it did not work well, very little sawing was done. The mill or at least the engine and boiler were afterwards taken to Monticello and put into a steamboat in the Mississippi. In the fall of 1866 Jackson Taylor, Wesley Bailey and C. Harvey built the steam saw mill on the lake shore, and for a number of years did a large business; it has a twenty horse power engine and a stave and heading machine. In 1875 the mill was bought by R. Knights, A. Knights and O. H. Bushnell, who made many improvements, and for a few years did good work whose sales amounted to nearly $30,000 per year. In 1878 A. Knights and O. H. Bushnell sold out to J. and A. Beattie. For the past two years this splendid property with the Windsor hotel has been under litigation, but the trouble is now settled, and Archie Beattie has become proprietor of the mill and hotel. There is plenty of good hard wood lumber in the vicinity and the stave and heading business could be made profitable; all that is lacking is a railroad. William Stokes has a small muley saw mill, which does a very good business in a small way; it was built in 1879.

DRUG STORE-PAINT SHOP.

Dr. R. O. Cady was interested with Fred Young in the drug store in 1867; in 1877 he built a new store near Oakleys, and opened a very neat drug store. In 1880 when business began to center around the new court house, he moved to that locality and is now in company with Dr. S. E. Dean; his old place of business has been converted into a shoe store. W. H. Myers started business as a painter in 1877; he has a very good shop and keeps on hand a large stock of paints and oils.

FURNITURE.

S. R. Wells came to Buffalo in Aug. 1869, his principal business has been dealer in furniture, but his extensive factory is full of almost everything in the cabinet maker's line, and he can make anything that is wanted in the line of wood work. He has a large stock in trade, and is always ready to do work when called upon; he has been the efficient town clerk for a number of years.

CHURCHES.

The Baptist church was the first organized in 1858; but owing to removals and deaths there are but few members left, and at present there is no organized society. There are quite a number of Methodists in town, but there is no church, although they have had occasional preaching for many years. The Episcopal church has quite a number of members, and they are making arrangements to build a chapel in the village. There is a Catholic church with a large membership on section 13, in the eastern part of the town. The old church was erected in 1860, but as it was too

small for the congregation, it was rebuilt in 1876, and is a handsome building. The Presbyterian church in the village was organized Dec. 10, 1875 with eight members; C. E. Oakley and E. J. Cutts, chairmen, W. H. Cady, secretary, S. L. Cronk, treasurer, S. R. Wells and Willard Mann. The church, which was erected in 1876, and dedicated on January 1877, is a neat , well finished building, and has a tower and fine bell. The pulpit has been filled by Rev. J. W. Dickey, H. P. Falleneider, J. P. McLane and H. C. Cheadle; present membership about 40.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

Nelson Lodge, No. 135, A. F. and A. M., was organized Dec. 15, 1879; the chartered members were:

O. H. Bushnell,
G. W. McInturf,
S. R. Wells,
A. V. Haynes,
Geo. A. Hoffman,
Jno. C. Nugent,
Nathan Warner,
Geo. Davis,
Benj. Amblers,
J. H. Wendell,
James Sturges,
W. W. Brasie,
S. A. Putnam,
S. L. Cronk,
Frank E. Keeler,
Archie Beattie,
R. O. Cady,

Several names have been added since the organization; the stated meetings are on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month; the lodge is located in Putnam's hall, and is in a prosperous condition.

Buffalo Grove, No. 13, U. A. O. D. , was instituted June 10th, 1876, with a membership of 18:

Geo. A. Hoffman, D. D. G. A.

O. Berthiaum, N. A.

Louis Kraek, J. A.

B. Nelson, Secy.

J. C. Nugent, Treas.

On the death of a member the order pays $1,000 to his widow or heirs; the benefit of this provision was lately received by Mrs. A. Munding.

Buffalo Lodge No. 140, I. O. of G. T. had a large membership, and did good work in the cause of Temperance as long as there was opposition, but at present the lodge is not in a very flourishing condition. Buffalo Brange No. 16, P. of H., did well for a season, but interest died out and the grange no longer exists; at the present time there is no farmers' society or club in the town.

The village can boast, a cemetery, well laid out, and well cared for. Occupying about three acres of the highest land in or about the village, the ground was surveyed and laid out in lots and avenues in 1870, but was not fenced until 1872, when the ladies took the matter in hands, and by dint of a sewing circle, festivals and concerts, raised enough money to enclose the grave yard with a good, substantial fence.

NEWSPAPERS.

The only paper ever published in Buffalo was the Truth Teller, a small sheet edited and printed by Frank H. Widstrand. It first appeared in 1879, and was issued semi-monthly; after a while it became a semi-occasional paper and remained as such for three years. There is not much to note of the Truth Teller except its extreme radicalism in morals, politics and religion, but the rather eccentric editor must figure in the history of Wright County. F. H. Widstrand was born in Stockholm, Sweden, October 10th, 1824, is a graduate of the university of Upsola, and is well educated. He contracted hip disease in his fourth year, and

is lame ever since. Prior to his coming to the United States in 1855, he had served the Swedish government in different capacities. He came to Minnesota in 1856, and on the 19th of April of that year he took a pre-emption claim and settled in Buffalo on the west side of lake Constance section 7. Widstrand was not very successful as an agriculturist; he dipped into politics, and preached radicalism in every thing, and was a general fault finder. He finally started the Truth Teller, and consigned to paper his extreme radicalism, but the enterprise was not a paying one, and after lingering through 3 years of suffering, the paper died a natural death. Mr. Widstrand seems to have lost nearly all his property, and is now running a small paper, the Radical, at Litchfield, Meeker county, issued like the Truth Teller, semi-occasionally.

MOUNDS.

Within the limits of the town, there are several mounds, relics of a prehistoric race; the largest is on the west side of lake Pulaski, in section 8, being about 40 feet in diameter and 14 feet high. This was evidently a temple mound, as there are traces of fire all through it; these old settlers were probably fire worshippers. Along the shore of the same lake in section 17, there are some smaller mounds, most of them being about 20 feet in diameter and about 5 feet high; these are nearly always met with in rows of three, at equal distances apart; some of them have been opened and human bones discovered, thought by some to be the remains of Indians.

HISTORY CORRECTED.

EDITOR EAGLE:— In the EAGLE of June 23rd, I notice many errors in the history of Buffalo, and knowing it is your wish to get as near the correct history of each town as possible. I venture to make corrections and additions to the best of my knowledge, freely submitting them to further corrections.

It is evident your historian has been unable to obtain all of the facts and correct dates, and it is also evident that he has been grossly misinformed respecting some statements he has made.

STORES.

He stated that after David S. Calkins closed his store in 1861, Buffalo was without a store until 1865. Mr. Hayford sold goods in the same building vacated by Mr. Calkins, prior to 1864, where Charles Irvine kept a store for some time. The same building was next occupied by Post & Parcher, with a stock of general merchandise, about the time that the county seat was moved from Monticello to Buffalo, which was in the spring of 1868.

E. J. Tillotson erected the building, now occupied by L. Krack as a saloon, in the fall, or early in the winter of 1865, put in a stock of goods and run a store until spring, when he sold out to G. A. J. Overton instead of Wm. Horn. Overton sold out in 1867 to Fred Young who kept a drug and grocery store until the fall of 1868, when he formed a partnership with W. H. Lord, and moved his goods to the building first spoken of. Wm. Horn then put in a stock of goods in the building vacated

by Young, and in the spring of 1869 sold to Joe Payant.

In the winter of 1874 and 1875 the Mill Company kept a store in the Windsor building, and the following summer James Vaughn sold goods in the same building.

HOTELS.

The Sturges house was built in 1867 instead of 1869. The Windsor house was built in 1874, but was not opened as a hotel until 1877 as stated.

MANUFACTORIES.

O. H. Bushnell and Austin Knight bought the saw mill of Jackson Taylor in 1873. In February 1874 they took in as partners, Richard Knight, S. L. Johnson and Archie Beattie and immediately after this change in the ownership of the property the stave and heading mill was put in. O. H. Bushnell and Austin Knight sold their interest to the other partners in the fall of 1874. S. L. Johnson sold his interest to Francis Beattie, a brother to Archie, in 1875.

The muly saw mill was built by L. H. Rawson, who sold it to Henry L. Stokes, Wyman O. Eddy and Andrew Anderson. Anderson and Eddy sold to Geo. D. Stokes, who bought out his brother Henry, and is now sole owner.

DRUG STORES.

Dr. Cady did not build the store first occupied by him, and never owned it. I built it for the express use of the Doctor as a drug store according to previous agreement.

Respectfully yours,

W. H. CADY

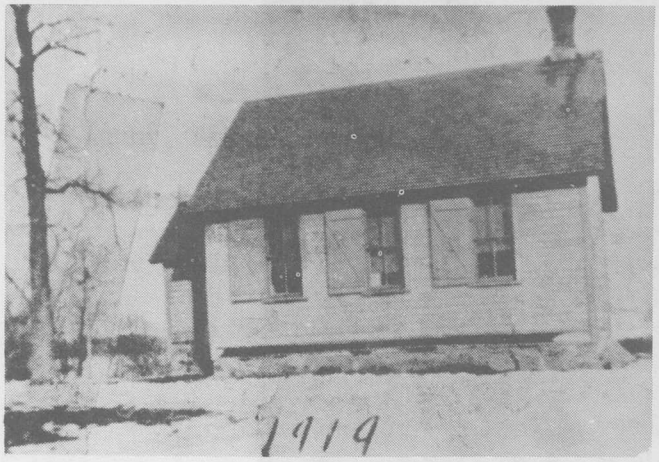
Buffalo, Aug. 22, 1881.



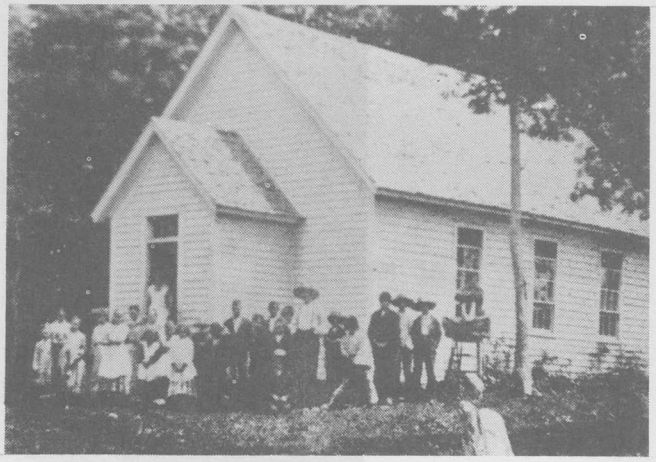
The family of Clarence E. Oakley,
early businessman of Buffalo.



Division Street in Buffalo in the 1870's.



Dist. 123 - Munsterteiger School northwest of Buffalo.

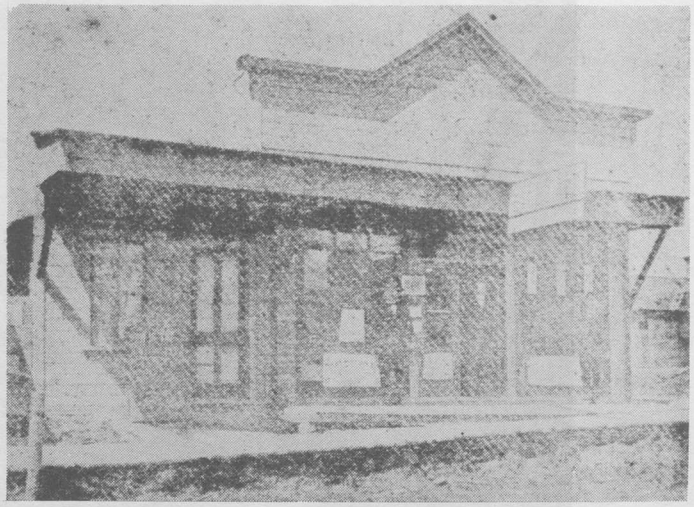


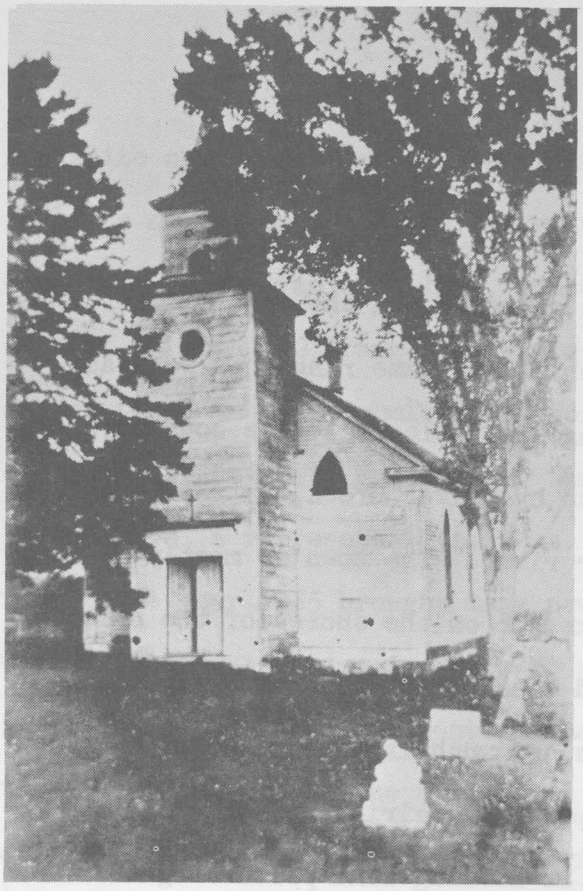
Buffalo's first school building with pupils.

Buffalo Journal building. The Journal was first published on January 17, 1887 by W. H. Hellen.

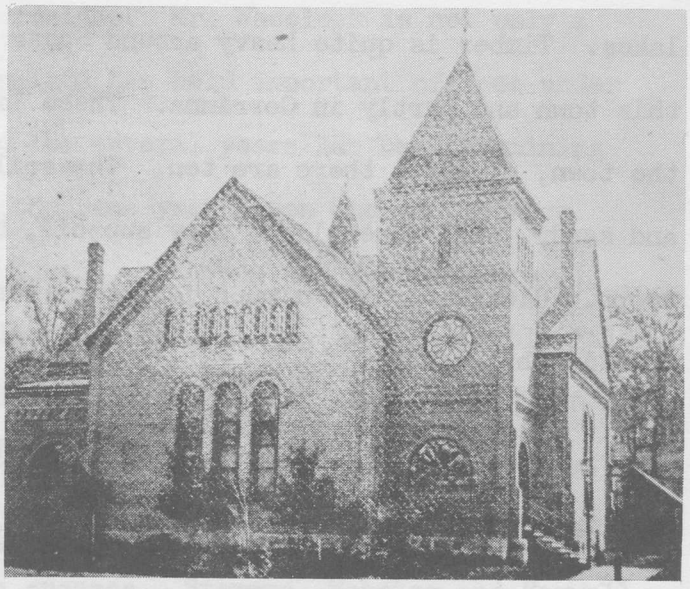


Dr. Resolvo O. Cady's Drug Store in Buffalo.

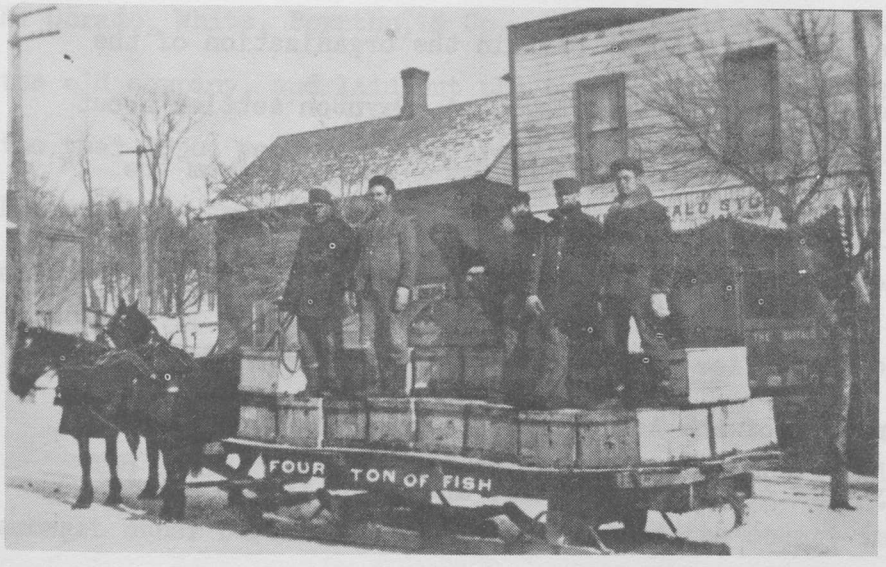




St. Mark's Catholic Church near Pelican Lake northeast of Buffalo.



Swedish Mission Church of Buffalo.



Enterprising fish salesman in Buffalo.

CLEARWATER

This town comprises all of township 122, range 27, on the east side of Clearwater river, and a snall portion of township 123, same range, as well as sections 7, 8, 17, and 18 in township 122, range 26. Clearwater is bounded on the north by the Mississippi river, on the east by Silver Creek, on the South by Corrinna, and on the west by the Clearwater river. The town is mostly prairie, with some timber along the river banks, or on the shores of the numerous lakes. Timber is quite heavy around Sugar and Bass lakes which are partly in this town and partly in Corrinna. These lakes are much larger than those within the town, of which there are ten. The soil upon the prairie is rather light and sandy, with generally a clay subsoil, but as farming land produces good crops. Clearwater has a much larger percentage of cultivated land than any other town in this county.

FIRST SETTLERS

Selah Markham, one of the earliest settlers, is a native of Illinois; he took a claim on section 7, town 122, range 26, in October 1854, and has resided there ever since. He is a wagon-maker by trade but has always been an enterprising farmer. He took a prominent part in the organization of the county in 1855, and was one of its first assessors. A. Beynton settled about the same time as Markham. Early in 1855 came John Oakes and sons from the State of Maine, and took claims on sections 8 and 17. Oakes died in 1861. Of his sons, Andrew E. Oakes, who resides in section 17, has taken an active part in county affairs, and held the office of county commissioner from 1861 to 1869; John A. Oakes was elected member of the legislature, representative in 1876, and served in that capacity with credit to himself, and honor to the county.

Asa White came the same year, and with others laid out, or staked out a townsite at the mouth of the Clearwater river, naming it El Dorado. T.C. Porter came from Pennsylvania in 1855, and on the 8th day of March took a claim on section 2, town 122, range 27, where he now resides on his fine farm. He has served the county as commissioner for 3 years, from 1875 to 1878, and was chairman of the board during that time. In 1880, he was elected member of the legislature, a representative. Mrs. Porter was the first white woman in the town. The year 1855 brought many new settlers; Dr. J.D. Wheelock, from Vermont, took a claim on section 2, where he now resides. Mr. Wheelock is not only a farmer but is also a prominent physician, and has held important offices under the government during the civil war, and for several years has been examining surgeon for the pension office. During the same year Simon Stevens, Horace Webster and John Farwell came here from Canada. Stevens and Webster were pioneers in Hennepin county, having built a dam and mull in 1853 on Little Falls creek at the foot of lake Minnetonka. Simon Stevens took a claim on section I, near the village, where he now resides, a successful farmer and stock raiser. Horace Webster took a claim on section 2, and still makes of the old claim a pleasant home; as a farmer he has been a success. Stevens, Webster and Farwell had considerable trouble with the old townsite holders of the paper town of El Dorado, White, Boynton, & Co., but finally made a compromise, bought out the old company, and laid out the present village of Clearwater on 1856. During the year 1856, many new settlers came, among others, W.J. Kirk, John Kirk and Robert Kirk, and almost every claim on the town was taken. Cabins were built all over the prairie, and settlers began to find their way into the timber.

ORGANIZATION

The board of county commissioners met at Monticello, April 9th, 1855, and amongst other business transacted, divided the county into election precincts.

Big Bend, including the present town of Clearwater, was described as follows: "Bounded on the east by a line running due south from John O. Haven's northwest corner on the Mississippi river, to the south line of the county; on the south and west, by the south lines of the county; on the north by the Mississippi river." The dwelling-house of Selah Markham, was designated as the place of holding the election. Selah Markham, John Oakes and John C. Dow were appointed judges of election; John C. Dow and Archie Downie were appointed justices of the peace; Oscar Dow and John Lowell, constables. A school district was established in Big Bend precinct, district No. 3, and Selah Markham was appointed school agent. On the 6th day of April 1858, the county commissioners, under an act of the legislature, proceeded to divide the county into towns, and the town of Clearwater with the present town of Corrinna was established. The first town meeting was held at the village of Clearwater, May 11th, 1858, and the following were elected town officers: Town clerk, Samuel Whiting Jr.; supervisors, J. D. Wheelock, chairman; Hiram Woodworth, Cryus Smith; treasurer, H. J. Dunton; justice of the peace, A. W. Waldron; constable, Thomas J. Doble; overseer of the poor, Simon Stevens.

GRASSHOPPERS.

Clearwater was one of the first towns in the county to engage in farming, and in 1856 and 1857, suffered most from the ravages of the grasshoppers; many of the enterprising farmers lost their entire crops, and some left the town never to return. Wheat, oats, corn, potatoes and garden vegetables were nearly destroyed, and as many had invested their entire means in their crop, they were almost ruined, and forced to leave.

GINSENG.

The citizens were not very greatly benefited by the ginseng trade, except in the southern part of the town. But the trade was kept up for several years and increased business in the village.

BIRTHS-MARRIAGES-DEATHS.

The first child born in the town was Mary Whitney, born Sept. 10th, 1855. The first marriage was that of J. W. Stevenson and Emma Kent, Sept. 2, 1855. The first death, J. W. Stevenson who died August 26th, 1856. The first school was kept by A. C. Powers, commenced the 1st of December 1857, and the first school house was built in April 1860.

CLEARWATER.

This town was one of the most patriotic in the war of 1861, never having been subjected to a draft. The following were the soldiers who served in the United States army, during the war:

FIRST REGIMENT

Ellet B. Perkins, Lieut.

Isaac N. Hoblitt, Co. D.

H. L. Gordon, " "

C. D. Robinson, " "

Edwin S. Post " "

Orange S. King, " "

Geo. E. Fuller, musician, Co. D.

Lemuel B. Carter, Co. F.

Carrol H. Clifford, Co. F.

John Clator, " "

Henry W. Crown, " "

Francis F. Carter, " "

W. H. Garry, Co. D.

W. A. Gordon, " "

Levi B. Green, " "

Charles W. Gree, " "

A. C. Hayden, " "

E. L. Hamilton, " "

John F. Hoblitt, " "

Charles W. Hugh, " "

A. E. Howe, " "

Chas. A. Hutchins, " "

A. H. Hyatt, " "

Charles Rynes, " "

Joseph Smithson, " "

C. W. Smith, " "

Edward Walker, " "

C. W. Woodworth, " "

SECOND REGIMENT.

Geo. C. Clifford, Co. C.

THIRD REGIMENT.

W. W. Webster, Major.

Jonathan N. Fox, Serg. Co. A.

James E. Brown, Serg. " "

C. P. Camp, private, " "

Geo. Davis, Co. A.

A. C. Collins, " "

Edward Cowan, " "

Elisha Cowan, " "

O. D. Gamage, " "

Amos McDonald, " "

Samuel Smith, " "

Martin Minster, Co. A.

W. B. Walter, " "

D. E. Woodworth," "

EIGHTH REGIMENT.

Thomas Tollington, Cap. Co. E.

Edwin P. Bradbury, " "

Frank W. Clifford, " "

Charles G. Ellis, " "

Charles H. Gibbes, " "

Randolph Holding, " "

John D. Ponsford, " "

William Ponsford, " "

William Eberman, " "

SIXTH REGIMENT.

Frank Zimberman, Co. E.

William Dixon, " "

INDIAN WAR OF 1862 AND 1863

Clearwater felt severely the Indian scare, the town becoming nearly

depopulated. A fort or stockade was built at the village, and the settlers in the timber, here found a home. Squads of soldiers were located in town at different times during the two years, and the prairie farms were generally cultivated, but from the southern part of the town many of the settlers departed never to return.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The citizens of Clearwater have had a heavy tax to support in the building of roads and bridges; although much of the town is prairie, the Clearwater river on the west, and Fish creek on the south, both subject to the rise and fall of water in the Mississippi, have been very hard on bridges. The town has had some help from the county, and a small appropriation was given by the State to help build the Fish creek bridge, which has been carried away several times, but which is now built high enough to be safe, and is a good substantial bridge. The three bridges on the Clearwater river have been mostly built by the town, without outside help, and Clearwater can now boast of good roads and bridges.

RAILROADS.

Clear Lake station, across the river on the branch line of the St. P. M. & M. railroad, three and one half miles from town, has been the nearest point for railroad accommodation, but the same company have a road graded and now ready for the track, from Minneapolis through Osseo and Monticello to Clearwater; so the town will have in a short time the advantage of a railroad running through it.

CROPS.

During the very dry seasons of 1864 and 1865, as also in 1868 and 1869, Clearwater had a narrower escape then any town in the county, from failure in wheat and other cereals, and farmers began to turn their attention to other and more diversified crops, and also to stock raising, and now stall feeding and fattening beef is one of the most profitable farm interests.

In 1880 the crops were as follows:

Wheat	873 acres
Oats	162 "
Corn	410 "
Barley	6 "
Rye	6 "
Potatoes	13 "
Sugar cane	8 "
Cultivated hay	53 "
Total acreage	1,525
Apple trees, growing	1,429
Apple trees, bearing	388
Maple syrup	78 gals
Maple sugar	134 lbs
No. of Milch cows	309
No. of sheep	318
Wool, No. lbs	1,372

No. of hogs 58

No. of horses 98

Working cattle 39

No. of farms 50

Population including the village: in 1860, 240; in 1865, 401; in 1870, 552; in 1875, 603; in 1880, 658; village population in 1880, 218.

CLEARWATER VILLAGE.

The townsite was surveyed and laid out in December, 1855, the owners being Simon Stevens, Horace Webster and John Farwell. It is bounded on the north by the Mississippi, and on the west by the Clearwater river. The business part of the village is nearly all on the second bottom land along the river. The business part of the village is nearly all on the second bottom land along the river. On the hill or bluff are several residences, the Morrison house, school house and the Congregational church.

MILLS AND MANUFACTORIES.

The flouring mill, which is one of the very best in the county was built in 1858 by Rogers, Mitchell and Walker, and was subsequently owned by E. Cordwent & Co., in 1860, Baker in 1862. P. B. Thomas in 1867, and was one of the best flouring mills in the northwest; but in January 1877 it was burned. There are three water powers on the Clearwater river, within the limits of the townsite. The flouring mill at the upper falls was built by James Campbell in 1861, sold to Forest and Ladd in 1869, and burned in 1870. The water power was purchased by Davis and Beal, and a new mill built by them in 1872. After the burning of the lower mill

in 1872, the upper mill was moved to the lower millsite and its former location is now unoccupied. The three dams are all within a half mile of the Mississippi, and are in every respect the best water powers in the county. John Dodds has a small muley saw mill at the lower dam near the Mississippi built in 1879, and works it most of the time, sawing both pine and hardwood lumber. In the spring, when the "Father Waters" gets on a rise, the mill is troubled by back water. On the same dam, Thomas Tollington has a sash, door and blind factroy. The business was established in 1860 by Seth Gibbs, a native of the state of Maine, who came to Clearwater in 1856, and built a factory. Thomas Tollington became a partner in the business in 1866. On the 24th of October 1874, Mr. Gibbs got caught in some of the machinery, and was killed; since which date Mr. Tollington has carried on the business. A cheese factory, the only one in the county, was established here in 1879, and has been doing a good business. With its splendid water power, and enterprising citizens, and now that a new railroad has been added, Clearwater must become one of the principal manufacturing towns in the county.

GENERAL STORES.

Samuel Whiting came to Clearwater in 1857, and started a general store in 1861. His is the oldest establishment of the kind in the county, and during the twenty years that he has been in business, he has always prospered. Whilst nearly all of the first stores in the county have had failures on account of various disasters in the shape of bad crops, Indian wars and grasshoppers. Mr. Whiting has continued to keep a full stock and do a thriving business. Since his first opening he has in 1876

put up one of the best store buildings in the county. The block is 40 by 50 feet, two stories high, and is an ornament to the village. The entire lower story or ground floor is used for a store, or rather two stores, as there is a glass partition running through the entire length of the building dividing the grocery and hardware department from the dry goods. In every respect it is the neatest and best store, containing the most extensive stock of goods to be found outside the cities. The upper story is devoted to a fine large hall used for various public purposes. W. W. Webster is a native of Canada, who came to Clearwater in May 1857, and enlisted in the third regiment, Minnesota infantry and gained promotion step by step, until he held the commission of major. He opened a general store in 1868, has always kept a full stock of goods, and has been for thirteen years doing a safe and substantial business. Always liberal, and the foremost in every good work, it is not to be wondered at that he has a host of firm friends, and that his customers are the best farmers and mechanics in the county. The prosperity and success of the village in schools, societies and other institutions is due in a great measure to the energy and liberality of such men as Major Webster. J. F. Fuller came to Clearwater in 1857, and started a general store in 1865, which has been in a prosperous condition ever since. He has held many town offices and has been postmaster for the past seven years. His store contains a good stock of general merchandise, groceries, clothing and notions. L. C. Johnson commenced business in 1875, has a large store and keeps constantly on hand a large stock of dry goods, groceries, hats, caps, boots and shoes. He has a very good run of custom among the townspeople and farmers, and seems to be a general favorite with all. One feature very noticeable,

and perhaps a cause of success, in the business enterprises of Clearwater, is an absence of partnerships; almost all the merchants are alone in their business, and the word company is almost unknown.

DRUG STORES

Phillip Schwab is a German who first settled in Rockford in 1875, where he kept a drug store and saloon, went to Minneapolis in 1867, and came to Clearwater in 1868, opening a drug and grocery store which he kept until 1873. Since that date he has devoted his business entirely to drugs, always doing a good trade, and he now owns one of the finest residences in town. Clearwater is indebted to Mr. Schwab for much of its prosperity, and his money is in many of the new enterprises of the day. In the absence of a bank, he is a very convenient and accommodating citizen, and one of the kind who are reckoned a great help in time of need.

S. M. Phillips purchased the store and stock in trade of J. H. Davis in 1871; the firm was Crossman & Phillips until 1876, since which time Mr. Phillips has been alone. He carries a very large stock of drugs, medicines, paints and oils, has a splendid store, and like the other merchants, is doing a first class business.

HARDWARE, MACHINERY AND BLACKSMITHS

Boutwell & Crossman are the principal dealers in hardware. The business was established in 1879, by E.P. Crossman, and in 1880, Mr. Boutwell bought an interest, since which time they have added farm machinery to their general stock, and are doing an extensive and profitable trade. E. Clocker is the principal blacksmith, and this trade with the farm machinery that he handles is bringing him a good livelihood. He is one of the very best workmen in the county.

HOTEL

The Morrison house was built in 1857, by Frank Morrison, and was for a long time the largest and best hotel in the county. George Benson and Simon Stevens have each for several years been landlord of the Morrison house. At the present time it is under the management of W. R. Blackburn, who makes it a veritable travelers' home. It is located on the bluff, commanding a fine view of the village and adjacent country, and is a commodious and well kept hotel. R. L. Campbell is the harness maker, Mrs. R. A. Lyons, the milliner and dressmaker, and Mr. R. A. Lyons proprietor of the stage line and ferry; these with a few others in small business make up the village.

CHURCHES, SOCIETIES

The first Congregational church of Clearwater was organized April 20th, 1859, with 6 members. The first minister was Rev. O. S. Sentor. In 1860, preparations were made for building a house of worship, and the church was finished and dedicated May 2nd, 1861. The house is located on the bluff in a prominent locality, and makes a good appearance. It is a fine building, and the church society is prosperous, having a membership now of about 80. The ministers have been Revs. O.S. Sentor, Wm. Crawford, W.B. Dada, Nelson Clark, and the present one P.S. Smith.

The first Methodist service held in the vicinity of Clearwater, was at Mr. Dow's, about two miles from where Clearwater now is, in December 1855, Rev. Mr. Creighton of Monticello officiated. There was then no Methodist minister stationed at Clearwater, St. Cloud, Fair Haven or Main Prairie. Jan. 8th and 9th 1858, Rev. S.T. Sterrett, presiding Elder of Monticello district, held a quarterly meeting service at Orino, after which he stationed Rev. L. Gleason

at Clearwater, who held his first service on Clearwater charge Jan. 23, 1858, in the forenoon, at a school house called the Fremont school house. In the afternoon he held a service in Clearwater in a building used for the purpose, owned by Mr. Francis Morrison. This was the first Methodist sermon preached in Clearwater. Mr. Gleason then organized the church as follows: Members, James Lee, Rebecca Lee, Joseph Pratt, Eliza Pratt, B.T. Lyons, Lydia Lyons; Probationers, Martha Pratt and William Long; James Lee was appointed class leader, B.T. Lyons and Joseph Pratt as Stewards. The charge has had the following pastors:

L. Gleason, appointed in 1858
B. Blain, " " 1860
S.T. Sterrett, " " 1861
T.M. Berlin, " " 1862
L. Gleason, " " 1863
Moses S. Harriman, " " 1864
C.T. Barkaloo, " " 1865
Rev. Rorl, " " 1867
L. Gleason, " " 1869
C.T. Garvin, " " 1872
N. Lathrop, " " 1875
M.B. Smith, " " 1877
J.N. Henry, " " 1879
Leland P. Smith, " " 1880

At one time the charge included Fair Haven, Main Prairie and Clear Lake in Sherburne county. It has since been divided, and now includes only Clearwater and vicinity, and Clear Lake in Sherburne county. The society has owned at

Clearwater for several years a parsonage, but no church building. In June 1881, a church was begun and in a few weeks the church expects to rejoice in the possession of as pretty a house of worship as can be found in the Mississippi valley north of Minneapolis. The past ecclesiastical year has been one of prosperity.

The Catholics bought and refitted the old school house some years ago, and services are now held there, pending the erection of a new and larger edifice. The present membership is quite large and the building almost too small to accommodate all. The church is attended from Maple Lake.

Clearwater Lodge, No. 28, A.F. & A.M. was instituted in August 1858. W.T. Rigby was the first W.M, and he held that office for many years. James Colgrove is the present W.M., the lodge owns a building in the village with a store, and a hall in the second story; they also have laid our a cemetary of 5 acres, well fenced and well kept, named the "Cassia;" the society is in a flourishing condition.

Clearwater Lodge, No. 40, I.O. of G.T. is a working temperance society, and was organized in March 1871.

Clearwater Grange, No. 18, P. of H. was instituted on 1869, and was a live farmers' society for a number of years, but is not in working order at present.

CEMETERIES

Mount Hope Cemetery and the Masons' Cassia, are both respectable burying grounds, and are a credit to the liberality and public sentiment of the village and town.

SCHOOLS

Clearwater has always been noted for good schools; the village district is organized as an independent school district; the first school was kept by

A. C. Powers, commenced in December 1857; the first school house was built in 1861. The school house in the village is a fine building, and schools are supported and kept about nine months in the year, the other districts in town about six months each year.

HISTORY CORRECTED

EDITOR EAGLE:-- In the EAGLE of June 23rd, I notice many errors in the history of Buffalo, and knowing it is your wish to get as near the correct history of each town as possible. I venture to make corrections and additions to the best of my knowledge, freely submitting them to further corrections.

It is evident your historian has been unable to obtain all of the facts and correct dates, and it is also evident that he has been grossly misinformed respecting some statements he has made.

STORES

He states that after David S. Calkins closed his store in 1861, Buffalo was without a store until 1865. Mr. Hayford sold goods in the same building vacated by Mr. Calkins, prior to 1864, where Charles Irvine kept a store for some time. The same building was next occupied by Post & Parcher, with a stock of general merchandise, about the time that the county seat was moved from Monticello to Buffalo, which was in the spring of 1868.

E.J. Tillotson erected the building, now occupied by L. Krack as a saloon, in the fall, of early in the winter of 1865, put in a stock of goods and run a store until spring, when he sold out to G.A.J. Overton instead of Wm Horn. Overton sold out in 1867 to Fred Young who kept a drug and grocery store until the fall of 1868, when he formed a partnership with W.H. Lord, and moved his goods to the building first spoken of. Wm. Horn then put in a stock of goods

in the building vacated by Young, and in the spring of 1869 sold to Joe Payant.

In the winter of 1874 and 1875 the Mill Company kept a store in the Windsor building, and the following summer James Vaughn sold goods in the same building.

HOTELS

The Sturges house was built in 1867 instead of 1869. The Windsor house was built in 1874, but was not opened as a hotel intil 1877 as stated.

MANUFACTORIES

O.H. Bushnell and Austin Knight bought the saw mill of Jackson Taylor in 1873. In Feburary 1874 they took in as partners, Richard Knight, S.L. Johnson and Archie Beattie, and immediately after this change in the ownership of the property the stave and heading mill was put in. O.H. Bushnell and Austin Knight sold their interest to the other partners in the fall of 1874. S.L. Johnson sold his interest to Francis Beattie, a brother to Archie, in 1875.

The muly saw mill was built by L.H. Rawson, who sold it to Henry L. Stokes, Wyman O. Eddy and Andrew Anderson. Anderson and Eddy sold to Geo. D. Stokes, who bought out his brother Henry, and is now sole owner.

DRUG STORES

Dr. Cady did not build the store first occupied by him, and never owned it. I built it for the express use of the Doctor as a drug store according to previous agreement.

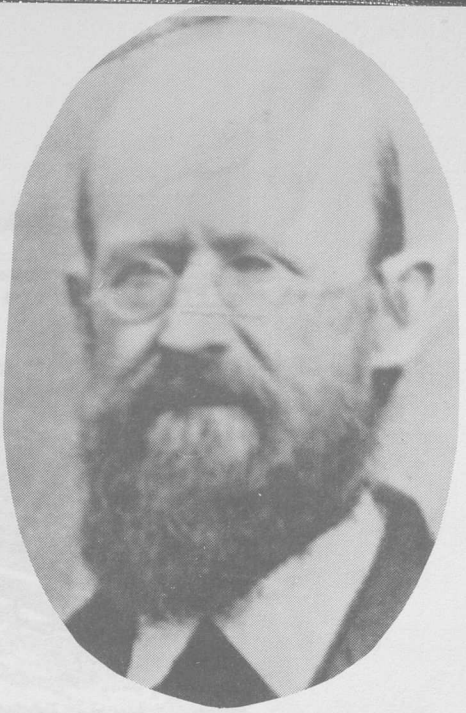
Respectfully yours,

W. H. Cady

Buffalo, Aug. 22, 1881.



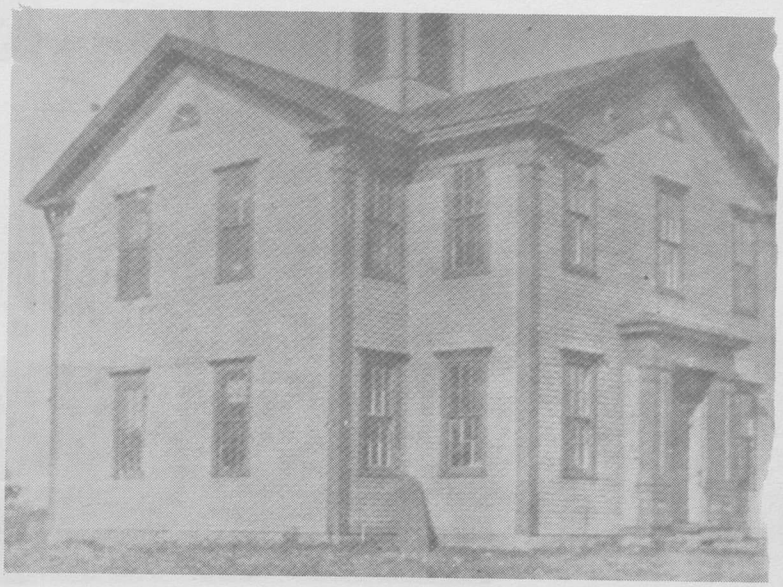
Simon Stevens - one of the original owners of Clearwater.



Thomas C. Porter



Dr. Jared Wheelock - Wright County's first doctor who settled in Clearwater in 1855.



Clearwater school.







The logging industry to the north kept the Mississippi full of logs and wannigans for many years.

COUNTY NEWS - CORRECTED

In the history of Clearwater, by a typographical error, Phillip Schwab is said to have come to Rockford in 1875, instead of 1865. Mistakes of this kind are very easily caused, and though slight in themselves, make quite a difference in the reading.

CHATHAM

This town is the south half of township No. 120, range 26. Like the other timber towns, it is somewhat broken, lakes, marshes and timber being the rule, while level unbroken tracts of land are the exception. Buffalo lake, or a large part of it, is in Chatham; the other principal lakes are: Birch, Twin, Calkin's, Cochrane's, Sobie, Abbie, and lake Albert's; there are in all eight large lakes, and several small ones. Mill Creek is the only stream of any account in the town; it affords a good substantial water power. The town is bounded on the north by Maple Lake, on the east by Buffalo, on the south by Marysville, and on the west by Albion.

FIRST SETTIERS

Moses L. Calkins took a claim on section 25, in November 1855. Sam Chamberlin settled in 1856, on section 28. Joseph Armstrong settled on section 35, the same year. In August 1857, Benjamin Ambler took a claim on section 34; he is a native of Louisburg, Westchester county, N.Y., and was never married, but still resides on the old place with his nephew, James Ambler. Uncle Ben, as everybody calls him, is a mason by trade, and has been a prominant citizen in the town and county. William Sullivan came to Chatham with Mr. Ambler from New York; he was an educated, gentlemanly lawyer, and took a claim on section 34, but did not succeed as a farmer. He worked hard, but made little progress. He had considerable practice as a lawyer in Monticello and Rockford, was married to Margaret Murphy in April 1859, removed to Brooklyn, Hennepin county, in 1865, and died in 1868. Gottlieb Haug came to Chatham in October 1857, and took a claim, where he still resides on the southeast half of section

33. He is a Dutchman*, and is a model of the old Dutch burghers described by Motley, in the palmy days of the Dutch republic. Haug came to Chatham with quite a family and not an abundance of money or other property, but with the determination to clear up a farm and make a living. He had no team, and his only farming implements were an ax and a hoe. In the fall of 1858, Mr. Haug made arrangements with Moses Calkins of Buffalo for the use of a sap-pan or boiler, to make maple sugar in the spring of 1859. In March of the next year, after making his troughs and spiles, he went to Buffalo after the boiler, when Mr. Calkins informed him that he had made other arrangements, proposed to make sugar himself, and could not therefore let him have the sap-boiler. There were, at the time about eight inches of soft snow on the ground, and about a foot of mud, and Mr. Haug had nothing but moccasins to protect his feet, but without hesitating a moment he started afoot for St. Paul. Arriving in St. Paul the following day, he found Willibald Rettich, a chair and cabinet-maker, who had a claim in Chatham, and who had lived there previously in 1858. Mr. Haug succeded in borrowing six dollars, with which he at once purchased a kettle, and taking it upon his head (it weighed 76 lbs.) he started through the snow, slush and mud for Chatham, a distance of 45 miles, reaching home the next day. The season proved favorable, and he made quite a large quantity of sugar. This little incident shows the bull-dog determination of many of our first settlers in the big woods, and what difficulties they had to contend with. Such men must eventually succeed and triumph over adverse circumstances. A large number of the citizens are Germans, but there is about an equal number of Irishmen, and one and all are hard working, industrious and prosperous farmers.

TOWN ORGANIZATION

Chatham was a part of Buffalo until 1866. On the 5th day of January 1866,

the county commissioners received a petition signed by J.M. Murphy and 38 other citizens and legal voters of the towns of Buffalo and Maple Lake, asking that township, No. 120, of range 26, be organized as a town, and be named Chatham. Believing that it was for the public good, the board of commissioners granted the petition, and notice was given of an election of town officers to be held at the house of Benjamin Ambler. On the 22nd of January 1866, the town meeting was held, and the following town officers were elected: Supervisors, Willard Mann, chairman, Herman Erath, Patrick Flaherty. Town clerk, James Ambler. Justices of the peace, Hiram Lobdell, Wm. P. Jewett. Town treasurer, Benj. Ambler. Assessor John Carroll. Constables, James Murphy, Albert Erath. But the town of Chatham was not destined to be so easily organized. The town of Maple Lake, organized under an act of the legislature, May 11th, 1858, claimed the north half of the town of Chatham, and W. G. McCrory, a citizen of Maple Lake, commenced an action in the district court to set aside the action of the board of county commissioners in organizing the town of Chatham. It was a valid claim on the part of Maple Lake, that by the act of the commissioners the town of Maple Lake was reduced below the maximum of 36 sections, as a full congressional township. This claim was good, although the then celebrated county attorney had advised otherwise. The district court decided in favor of Maple Lake, and against the action of the board of commissioners, but the county attorney advised an appeal to the supreme court, as it would be an excellent opportunity for him to make his first appearance before that august body. The case was argued and submitted without any show of success on the part of the appellants, only that the attorney succeeded in airing himself and his views; with what success the following legal notice shows:

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR
WRIGHT COUNTY, MINNESOTA. } ss.

Monticello, Oct. 10th, 1867.

To the town clerk of the town of Chatham, Wright Co., Minn.

You are hereby notified that the matter of the town of Maple Lake, by the commissioners of the county of Wright taken by appeal to the supreme court, has been decided by the court approving the decision, and leaves you the south half of township 120, range 26.

Respectfully your's,

HENRY KREIS.

County Auditor.

This of course left the town without an organization, and as it seemed to be beyond the control of the county commissioners, application was made to the legislature, and an act at once was passed and approved, March 2, 1868, to organize the town of Chatham. By this act, the legal voters of the south half of township 120, range 26 were authorized to meet at the house of Benj. Ambler, in said town, on the first Tuesday in April 1868, to organize said town. At the town meeting held April 7th 1868, the following officers were elected: Supervisors, W. W. Washburn, chairman, Gottlieb Huag, James G. Nugent. Town clerk, Herman Erath. Treasurer, James E. Cochran. Town assessor, John C.Nugent, Justice of the peace, W. W. Washburn. Constable, Albert Erath.

(*Mr. Haug is a German, was born and came from Wurtemberg, in the south of Germany-Ed.)

ROADS.

The town of Chatham is very uneven, the southern part being very hilly, and the settlers had hard work to make roads. In 1857 the Buffalo and Forest City road was laid out, and opened through the town. There are roads in all directions, to every section, but many of them are not much worked and are as a rule very poor.

FIRST BIRTH-SCHOOLS.

The first white child born in the town was Maggie Haug, born February 22, 1858; the first school commenced July 1st 1860, with Alexander Ambler, as teacher, and the first school house was built in 1860. There are three school districts organized, and each district has a very good school house. In district 27, three months summer school is taught, in district 39, about three months summer and winter, and in school district No. 91, about four months winter school.

SOCIETIES-CHURCHES.

The only church or society in town is a Catholic church organized in July 1877. The congregation have built a parsonage on section 19, and own land and lots, on which they will son build a church. Rev. C. Roberts is the pastor. A large part of the citizens are members of this church. Other denominations have held services in the town, but there are no other church organizations or societies.

MILLS AND MANUFACTORIES.

In 1867 Charles H. Irvine of Monticello, purchased a small tract of land in the southwest quarter of section 25, including the mill site

and water power on Mill Creek, and commenced the building of a dam and saw mill. A failure, however resulted from ignorance in building, and the flouring mill which was intended to supply the wants of the people, never accomplished its end. After many changes the dam was finally put in, and a very primitive saw mill erected. Mr. Wakeman worked the mill about a year, but did not saw a very large amount of lumber; then the noted mill-wright Wesley Bailey got posession, but as the mill was run by water power, and not by gas, it soon fell into disuse, and finally rotted down, and the famous Bailey transferred his attentions to Buffalo. Henry Warner now owns the mill-site consisting of about four acres of land. The water power although not large, is one of the best in the county, and will probably be used for milling purposes shortly, since it is the only mill or manufactory ever started in town. Chatham can boast of no stores, and no lawyer or physician has ever located there, if we except William Sullivan, whose real business was farming.

CEMETERIES.

The Catholic congregation have purchased land on section 19, and have laid out a burial ground, near where the church building will be erected. Many of the dead who were residents have been interred in Buffalo and Maple Lake.

MOUNDS.

Several ancient mounds are to be found on the bank of Buffalo lake, in section 35. On the land owned by Joseph Armstrong, are five mounds, the largest of which is about 100 feet in diameter and 35 feet

high; parallel with this, two on each side are mounds 30 feet in diameter. Wm. P. Jewett opened the large mound in 1878 to a depth of 14 feet, and found 10 or 12 skeletons, in a very good state of preservation. The skulls were distributed over the county; Mrs. H. S. Dean of Rockford, has one of the ancient heads, and J. H. Wendell has another in his posession. The bodies seem to have been buried in a circle about five feet from the surface; the remains of what is supposed to have been an Indian, were found south of these mounds; and very near the south line of the town, on land owned by E. F. Drake, on section 35, is the largest mound in the county, being about 300 feet in diameter and nearly 50 feet high. There is no doubt in the minds of those who have examined it that the mound is artificial, and belongs to the same class of ancient mounds, but it has not been thoroughly examined and but very little excavated, only enough to to show that it is not a natural mound. All of these mounds are on high table-lands near the lakes, and were probably not intended for fortifications or defences, but were built as temples or signal mounds.

POPULATION

The population of Chatham in 1870, was 161; 1875, 224, 1880, 274. Soldiers in the civil war were:

James Nugent, Co. B.,6th Regiment.

James Amble, Co. E., 8th Regiment.

Albert Erath, Co. E., 8th Regiment.

Herman Erath, Co. E., 8th Regiment.

J. B. Charles, Co. D. Hatch's Battallion.

Isaiah Berthiaume, Co. E., Hatch's Battallion.

Peter Lefaivre, Co. E. Hatch's Battalion.

W. W. Washburne was in the service four years, and several others from two to five years, but the adjutant general does not report them; in fact that report is not a very complete one, and any other is not to be depended on.

CROPS FOR THE YEAR 1880

	No. of Acres.
Wheat	486
Oats	155
Corn	120
Barley	20
Rye	1
Buckwheat	1
Potatoes	17
Sugar Cane	1
Cultivated Hay	49
Other Products	4
TOTAL	854
Apple Trees, growing	461
Apple Trees, bearing	151
Grape Vines, bearing	6
Milch Cows	72
Sheep	215
Wool, lbs.	1,141
Hogs, No.	114
Horses	60
No. of farms	35

(To be continued.)





Father Savey and the St. Charles Catholic Church in Chatham Township.

HISTORY OF CHATHAM CORRECTED.

EDITOR EAGLE.-- In the history of the town of Chatham in last week's issue, July 21st, 1881, the historian makes a mistake.

The following are the names of the officers elected at the annual town meeting held April 7th, 1868, as shown by the town record, page 5: "Supervisors, James Nugent and Gottleib Haug; town clerk, Herman Erath; assessor, John Nugent; treasurer, William Mann; justices of the peace, William P. Jewett and William H. Cochrane." The chairman of the board of supervisors was not elected. Constables were not elected.

On page 6 of the town records appears the following: "Herman Erath, town clerk. April 10th the board of supervisors and justices of the peace, held a meeting at the house of Wm. Wallace Washburn. They appointed Wm. Wallace Washburn chairman of supervisors. The board of supervisors held a meeting at the town clerk's office the 17th of April, 1868. They appointed the following officers: Wm. W. Washburn for justice of the peace; James E. Cochran, treasurer."

William Sullivan died in Brooklyn, Hennepin county, May 4th, 1866.

J. D. MURPHY, TOWN CIERK.

Chatham, July 25, 1881.

COKATO

Cokato town is township No. 119, Range 28. It is bounded on the north by the town of French Lake, on the east by Middleville, on the south by Stockholm, and on the west by Meeker county. The north fork of the Crow runs through sections two, eleven and twelve in the northeast part of the town. Sucker creek runs from the south part of the town nearly through the center to Cokato lake, in sections 14, 15, and 23. This is the largest lake in the town, covering about 700 acres. The other lakes are: Swan lake in the northwest in sections 6 and 7; Beaver dam lake in section 30; Millner lake in section 28, and several smaller lakes. The surface of the town is generally level, slightly rolling. Nearly one half of the town is prairie, and was, at the time of its first settlement, known as Mooers' Prairie. The northern part of the town is timber and brush land; the soil is a deep rich loam, with clay subsoil; it is all first class farming land, and has always produced good crops, without a failure in twenty-five years, and its natural meadows are among the very best; so that Cokato is one of the best farming and stock-raising towns in the county.

FIRST SETTLEMENT

In August 1855 the town lines were surveyed, and during the fall and winter the U. S. surveyors finished subdividing the towns and camped for several months at Cokato lake. The lake was named by MR. Duffy, one of the surveyors, and signifies a stopping place or place of rest. The surveyors cut a road from near the forks of Crow river to Cokato lake so as to haul in their supplies during the fall of 1855, and the first settlers improved the surveyors' trail. In 1856 it was very well cut and laid out, and a few bridges had been built over the creeks. In April 1856 the townsite fever was the rage, and Mr. Duffy, together with Dr. J. H. Murphy, of St. Paul, Mr. Sidel and Mr. Crane of Minneapolis, laid out the city of Cokato on section 14, at the north side, or at the outlet of Cokato lake. The town company made many improvements, built a dam and a large hotel or boarding

house. Mr. McNulty was the agent, and he engaged Mr. Timothy Lowell with his family to keep the hotel. Many claims were taken in the spring of 1856, but generally by second or third parties, and very often for imaginary new settlers.

The first actual settler was Joseiah P. Mooers with his sons Augustus P. and Henry. On July 1st 1856 they took a pre-emption claim on section 34, township 119, range 28, and now own and occupy the same lands. Josiah P. Mooers was born December 27th, 1804 at Deerfield, N. H., went to the state of Maine in 1836, and came to Minnesotat in 1852. He has always been a farmer and stock raiser; his sons, A. P. and Henry have been and still are prominent men in the county, and have held many important and responsible offices in town, county and state, Henry having been representative one term in the state legislature. The first years of pioneer life in Cokato were anything but pleasant; with almost everything to contend with, it required a large amount of faith and perseverance to remain in the back settlements without any means of getting produce to market for little less than it was worth; with no railroad or even deeent wagon roads for fifteen years. What with Indian wars, grasshoppers and financial panics, it is a wonder that any one remained such a length of time so far from any market. The prospects of a saw mill and grist mill, which were good in 1856, grew less and less with each succeeding year until 1866. For ten years lumber and flour had to be hauled from Minneapolis, Kingston or Forest City in Meeker county. Mr. Crane, one of the proprietors of the Cokato townsite, moved to the place in 1858, and commenced work on a new dam, saw mill and grist mill; but after building the dam and getting the mill frame ready to put up, either his money or enterprise gave out and the town was deserted. In 1861 the famous city which had been so extensively advertised, with its mills and hotels, was left in silence and solitude. In 1862 N. D. Ferrell, then residing at Greenwood, Hennepin county, took advantage of the situation, and knowing that the townsite had not been entered or pre-empted, jumped the claim and took possession of the city. In 1866, Frank X. Lafond, in company with Mr. Ferrell built a dam and saw mill at the ancient townsite. The saw mill has since been changed into a grist mill with two runs of stone, and is now owned by Morgan

V. Cochran. A postoffice was established at the old townsite in 1863. N. D. Ferrell was the first postmaster, and M. V. Cochran succeeded him and is the present postmaster. The other first settlers were Joseph Lane in July 1856, David Griffith, William Lee and Luman Putman in 1857; Samuel Pavitt, Amos Chambers, Daniel Rose and several others in 1858. Cokato is nearly all Scandanavian, at present,but the first Swedes that came into the town were Swan Swanson, John Brown and Andrew Johnson, who moved to the town from near Acton, Meeker county in April 1862.

ORGANIZATION

On the 6th day of April 1858, the county commissioners, in dividing the county into towns, designated townships 118 and 119, ranges 27 and 28 as the town of Middleville. On the 11th day of May, town officers were elected. John L. King was chairman of the board of supervisors and represented the town on the county board in 1859. A. P. Mooers was chairman and a member of the county board in 1860. On the 3rd day of September 1861, the board of county commissioners adopted the following:

Resolved. That all of townships 118 and 119 of range 28, shall be organized into a new town, to be called and known as Mooer's Prairie, and that at the next general election, the polls shall be held at the house of David Griffith; and that Luman Putnam, Daniel Rose and David Griffith are hereby appointed judges of election.

In 1862 the town was very nearly depopulated, and continued so for two or three years. At a meeting of the county commissioners in July 1868, township 119, range 28, was set off as a separate town, and named Cokato. The first town meeting was held at the house of Samuel Allen, August 4th, 1868, and the following persons were elected town officers: Board of supervisors, Ahira Cady, chairman; Martin Edgerly, Hans Erickson; A. J. Jenks, town clerk; L. W. Perkins, assessor; Henry Mooers, L. W. Perkins, justices.

GRASSHOPPERS, GINSENG, INDIAN WARS

The settlers did not suffer very much from the ravages of the grasshopper in 1856 and 1857 as there was but very little for the grasshoppers to take,

and the town did not receive much benefit from the ginseng trade of 1859, for the simple reason that there were but few to dig the root. The Indian war of 1862 and 1863 left the towns uninhabited; nearly all returned in 1864 and 1865, though a few left to return no more. Andrew Hart, a native of Illinois came to Cakato in September 1862; after the Indian outbreak he was engaged as guide to some of the scouts sent into the county, as he was a natural hunter and trapper. He took a claim on section 26, where he now resides. After the murder of the Dustin family, and when everybody had left Cokato, Mr. Hart was appointed guide to Capt. Tibbet's company of scouts, of Co. I, of the 8th regiment, stationed at Albion. It is highly probable that Mr. Hart killed the only Indian who met his death in Wright county during the Indian war, near lake Swartout in the north part of the town of Albion, in July 1863.

ROCKFORD

Woolen Mills.

GOODS EXCHANGED FOR WOOL AT

Minneapolis Prices.

CASH PAID FOR WOOL.

ROLL CARDING.

Carding & Spinning done on short notice.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

☞All lots of Wool shipped to us by rail will be transported to and from Delano free of charge.

PARKER, WAREN & RENNER.

BLANKS of all kinds kept on sale at EAGLE Office, Delano, Minn.

COKATO

In 1863, after the murder of the Dustin family, and when the western part of Wright county was nearly deserted on account of the Indian scare, several companies or squads of soldiers were sant into the county. About 16 of company I, 8th regiment were stationed at Holmes' house in Albion, with Mr. Hart as scout and guide. One morning in the latter part of July, the Holmes brothers went to Monticello where a dance was to be held, and as there were no signs of Indians about, most of the soldiers also went, leaving but two of their number with Mr. Hart. After the company had gone, Mr. Hart started north on an exploring expedition towards lake Swartout, armed with a double-barreled gun, one barrel rifled, and the other for shot, the latter charged with a load of buck shot. As there were no roads and no settlers in that part of the town, it was by following old Indian trails, that scouts and hunters found their way to places which they wished to visit. Mr. Hart came out at the outlet of lake Swartout, and as he had noticed that bees were plenty, being an experienced bee-hunter, he determined to try his luck. He set his bait, and already had two or three different lines established, when a flock of ducks alighted in the lake quite near to where he was sitting, behind a sort of sand-bar or ridge, formed of driftwood, sand and boulders thrown up by the spring and winter storms. Hart shot at the ducks killing two, and proceeded to reload his gun without moving from his postition, waiting for the ducks to float ashore. In the meantime he heard a noise quite near, which seemed like a stampling of horses. As it afterward proved, three Indians had stolen two horses and a colt near Fair Haven, followed the Indian trail to lake Swartout and hitched their horses to feed, and were at the very moment stopping to rest within 8 rods from where Mr. Hart had just shot the ducks. Instinctively on hearing the noise, Mr. Hart turned in the direction from whence it proceeded, and saw three Indians cautiously approaching, not one hundred feet distant. The foremost one had evidently discovered the white man's tracks in the sand, and was reconnoitering; Hart took deliberate aim at this latter and pulled the trigger of the rifle barrel, but the cap alone exploded, and he immediately discharged the load of buckshot at the advancing savage, the Indian falling within four or five rods from him. The other two fired at Hart as he dashed off into the woods, jumping

from side to side so as to spoil their aim. Being a tall and lithe hunter, he made good time, and soon arrived at a small wooded island in a large meadow, where he though he could defend himself, and halted to await the coming of his enemies. After waiting an hour, and the savages not putting in an appearance, he returned to the Holmes house, and despatched one of the soldiers to Monticello after his comrades. Not long afterwards several shots were heard but a short distance south, and apparently on the same Indian trail that crosses the river near Boam's Bridge and continues in a southwesterly course. About this time five scouts had arrived from Fair Haven, who stated that they had followed the savages from near that place where they had stolen two horses and a colt. They said furthermore that the Indians had stopped at lake Swartout, where the scouts had found on the bank boot tracks and blood, but that they had not been able to find traces of the Indians since leaving the lake. "By the shots that we have just hear." said Hart, "and the jingling of cow-bells not more than a half mile south, I believe that the Indians are shooting cattle, and if we follow them immediately we will capture them and the stolen horses." but the leader of the Fair Haven scouts was too near the Indians, and would not move until his men had dinner; so Hart and two or three others followed the trail about a mile and found that the Indians had shot a steer, cut out quite a large amount of beef and had continued southwest along the Indian trail. As it was late in the day they returned to the Holmes house, and that evening Mr. Hart and Mr. Holmes started for Kingston where was stationed a squad of cavalry. Knowing that the Indians would follow the old trail leading out of the timber on the prairie at Rice City (now Darwin), it was thought that by getting the cavalry at Kingston to assist, they could intercept the savages before they reached the prairie; so early the next morning the Kingston cavalry was started south. In the meantime the soldiers stationed at Albion, and the Fair Haven scouts had followed the Indians, found where they camped during the night and came up with them, as they had stopped in the town of Cokato. As the pursuers came to small meadow, their leader discovered the Indians at rest with their horses feeding, and he immediately fired. The Indians at once sprang upon their horses and dashed through the timber. Seventeen shots were fired by the soldiers and scouts at short range, but without effect, and the two Indians rode away without a

scratch. The pursuers found here the head-dress of an Indian and some of his clothing, a good gun and ammunition and a saddle and bridle, all of which the savages had left behind in their hasty flight. It was supposed that they had just sunk in the marsh the body of the Indian shot by Hart. The cavalry that went west from Kingston were a few minutes too late at Rice City; the two Indians had gained the prairie, but were closely followed to Foot lake near Willmar where they were driven into a marsh, and the horses recovered, the savages making their escape.

LATEST STYLES!

Cloaks, Dolmans, Shawls, &c.

Ladies and Misses Hoods.

SCARFS AND HOSIERY IN ENDLESS VARIETY!

CLOTHING!

We Have a Full Assortment of

Men's, Youths' and Boys' Clothing.

OVERCOATS AND ULSTERS.

And Furnishing Goods which Cannot be Undersold.

PETERS' CHEAP STORE.

OPPOSITE NEW ELEVATOR, DELANO, MINN.

☞FARM PRODUCE TAKEN IN EXCHANGE FOR GOODS.

DRUG STORE.

Deutsche Apotheke.

COKATO

In 1867 the Wright county famine occured, and as Cokato or Mooers' Prairie, now the towns of Cokato and Stockholm, was somewhat interested, it is necessary to state that there was not a large amount of suffering, nor any danger of starvation; but the craze or mania started in Mooers' Prairie, Victor and Middleville, and although the county commissioners took all necessary precautions, by issuing an order that no person should receive help or aid from the county unless he held a certificate from the board of supervisors of the town stating, that the applicant was entirely destitute of all means of living, and was at the time in a suffering condition for the want of food, also giving the amount of property owned by the applicant, both real and personal, as well as the number of persons in each family. The board of supervisors were not very particular in giving certificates, and the statements about suffering, starvation and poverty were truly alarming. The census of the year 1865 shows the inhabitants of Mooers' Prairie to be 62, yet between the 18th and the 27th days of May 1857, the board of supervisors issued certificates to 151 persons, in 33 familes, certifying that they each and all were in a starving condition, and destitute of any means of support; they were assisted by the county, in fact became paupers, and were all furnished with flour, corn-meal, potatoes, seed corn and garden seeds, to the amount of three hundred eight dollars and forty cents, and the board of commissioners have been blamed time without number for being so liberal with county funds, when it can readily be seen, if blame is to be attached to any party it was the board of supervisors of the town, and not to the board of county commissioners. We do not find the names of any of the old settlers in the list of paupers, but most of them were settlers of 1866. When it was made certain in that year that the railroad would soon be built through the big woods, many new settlers went into the western part of the county, and the homesteads and nearly all of the railroad land were taken up, many of the Scandinavians taking only forty acres, and most of them did not raise any crops in 1866, in the expectation of obtaining employment on the railroad, that year and the next. On account of the want of funds, or for some other reason, the railroad company did not go on with the work in 1866, and but very little in 1867; this is what gave rise to the notable famine of 1867, and when a few

received help, the whole community imagined themselves starving; and with supervisors who were not over particular what they did, the pauper's certificate was easily obtained, and many wealthy and respectable citizens toda have their name on record as Wright county paupers.

During the summer of 1867 many of the new settlers raised good crops; some went to work on the railroad, and there was no more suffering for the want of the necessaries of life. The Scandinavians are very industrous, and the soil of the town very rich and productive, and in two or three years they had a large surplus, and have continued to prosper as a farming community. As a large part of the town is prairie land, nearly all have been engaged almost entirely in raising wheat; to such an extent has this branch of farming been carried, that the farmers generally have had to purchase beef, butter and pork; several car-loads having been shipped from Minneapolis and other places, and sold to Cokato farmers.

This will be changed in the future, many intending to cultivate corn and oats, raise more cattle and keep hogs. In 1866, the now St. P. M. & M. Co. built the railroad through the big woods, and part of the town of Cakato. The road was not finished to Cokato until the first day of July 1869. But as the work was going on in 1868, and as there was work for all, it had a wonderful effect on the new settlers and every one was prosperous and happy, and towns and villages sprung into being. Along the line of the railroad new farms were opened, new farm buildings put up and the whole face of the country underwent a remarkable change as if by magic. A town or county where it was almost impossible to exist before, became by the advent of the railroad the most desirable place for a residence and many improved the opportunity to get cheap homes, either by taking homesteads, or by purchasing land of the **railroad** company, as that company owned nearly half of the land in the western towns in the county; several citizens enlisted during the war of 1861, from Cokato, amongst them, David Griffith, in Co. C, Minnesota Mounted Rangers, and Dallas Dustin, Co. C., Hatch's Batallion.

The population of Mooer's Prairie in 1865 was 62; Cokato in 1870, 452; in 1875, 1, 174; in 1880, including the village of Cokato, 1,616; Cokato village, 174. In 1880 the number of acres under cultivation was as follows:

Wheat, 1,803; oats, 127; corn, 197; potatoes, 28; beans, 3; sugar cane, 2; cultivated hay, 6; total acreage 2,156. Apple trees growing, 758; apple trees bearing, 39; maple syrup, 48 gallons; milk cows; 215; sheep, 279; wool, 927 pounds; Hogs, 141; Horses, 79; farms,112, new farms, 17.

COKATO VILLAGE

When the railroad was built through the town in 1869, Mr. Samuel Jenks had a homestead on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 24, and by giving the railroad company 100 feet wide throught his land, they located the depot on his place and he immediately proceeded to lay out a village or town on his land. The town was surveyed and platted in June 1869, and entered at the register's office as the village of Cokato. Subsequently Benjamin Lee, who owned the east half of the sane quarter section, joined with Mr. Jenks, and the whole quarter section was surveyed and platted as a townsite. Quite a number of buildings were erected that year. Mr. Jenks was the first station and opened the first store at the depot, and the next year he built a part of what was the Grand Central hotel, and put in a general stock of goods, and did a flourishing business. In 1872 he sold his store building to A. D. Perkins who made the necessary additions by building and opened the Grand Central hotel in 1874. Mr. J. E. Jenks built a large store and hall in the second story, but went out of business in 1879. His store is now occupied by A. W. Almquist, who keeps a large stock of hardware, tinware and stoves.

Amos Chambers opened a general store in November 1867, and continued in business about three years. Dilmet Parker was another merchant of 1869, but did not continue in business but a short time. John Carlson is a prominent merchant and keeps a large stock of goods as a general store. A. P. Peterson has been in business six years. John Allen is another Cokato merchant and G. W. Trow has a drug store. John Tracy keeps a restaurant and H. England another, and each has kept saloons when the citizens did not vote against granting license.

HOTELS

The Grand Central was built by L. W. Perkins in 1872, and has been kept by L. W. Perkins, John Knight J. W. Jenks and John Carlson. The present proprietor is Mrs. M. B. Farnham, and is at present the only hotel in the village. The Pacific hotel was built by Berger Thurstenson, in 1873, but is now closed as a public house; the Atlantic hotel has been kept by J. E. Jenks, but has closed its doors to the public for a season.

ELEVATORS

The first grain house was built in 1869 by J. E. Jenks, who was the only wheat buyer. In 1876 Wm. Davidson and F. R. Delano built the first elevator, capacity, 30,000 bushels; it has always been doing a good business; it has always been the Farmers elevator, a circular elevator supposed to have been built by a company of farmers and run in the interest of farmers; capacity, 24,000 bushels; it was built in 1879, and the first year seemed to be doing a flourishing business, but was burned in May 1881. L. Cofield & Co. in 1881 built an elevator, capacity 15,000 bushels. Bull, Edmunds & Co. have built an elevator this year 1881, capacity 35,000 bushels; so that Cokato is well supplied with elevators, and is one of the best wheat markets in the county. In 1880 the wheat sold at this place was 175,000 bushels.

MILLS

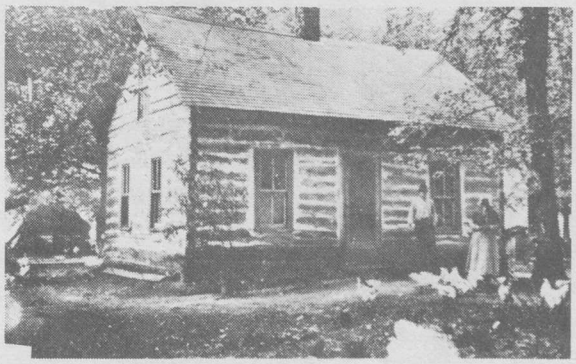
Cokato has not been fortunate in mills, Ward brothers and Reunion built a steam flouring mill and saw mill in 1873. Guy Perkins, F. X. LaFond and others were owners and part owners; in fact the mill changed owners many times and left to many law suits, but was burned in 1879.



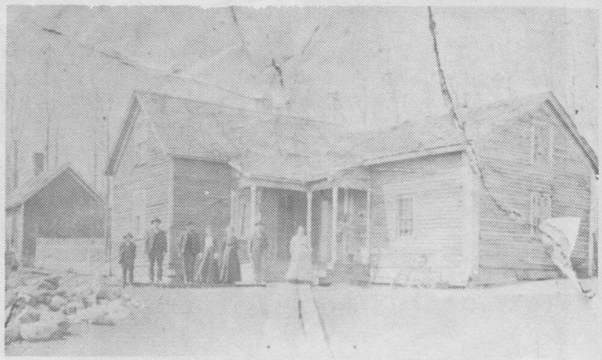
Market day in Cokato in the 1870's. This view is looking south on Millard Street.



Cokato's business district after the 1883 fire.



Pioneer farm home north of Cokato.



Erick Bajari home on Cokato Lake.



Western House Hotel in Cokato.



Cokato School and pupils.



Cochran School on the creek north of Cokato Lake.

COUNTY NEWS

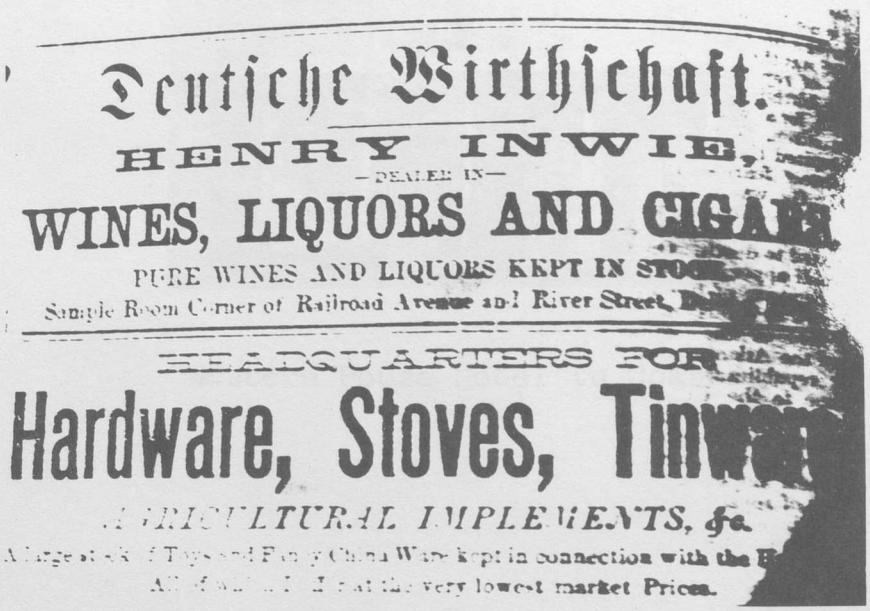
October 13, 1881

The History.-- We are once more obliged to crave pardon and make excuse for the non-appearance of the Wright county history. The county fair and subsequent labor has so taken up the time of our historian that he has been unable to furnish us the regular weekly bulletin. Next week no doubt we'll try a few chapters, and our readers will make allowance for the postponement.

COUNTY NEWS

November 10, 1881

The County History will be resumed soon.



February 2, 1882

The County History.-- About next week, or at the utmost, week after next. We shall resume or again take up the publication of the history of Wright county, beginning with the town of Corrinna.

Executive Committee.

WRIGHT COUNTY

BANK,

DITTMANN & ROOSEN, Bankers.

DELANO, : : : MINN.

Money to Loan on Farm and other good Security

Interest Paid on Time Deposits.

A general banking business transacted.

Passage tickets sold to and from Europe.

TOWN OF CORRINNA

Corrina is situated in the northwest part of the county, township No. 121 range No. 27, bounded on the north by Clearwater, west by Southside, south by Albion, east by Maple Lake and Silver Creek. The town was originally all timber land, a large part sugar maple, the soil a rich dark loam, and as far as it has been cultivated very productive. There are more lakes in this town than in any other town in the county. Clearwater lake in the northwest part of the town covers about 2,000 acres; Pleasant lake in the west about 500 acres; Bass lake in the northwest, sec. 5,200acres; Mink in sec. 24,200 acres; Somers lake in sec. 24, 150 acres, Sandy lake in sec. 10, 100 acres. Of the 23,000 acres in town, nearly 5,000 is water. Besides the lakes there are several creeks and springs, so that the town is well watered.

EARLY SETTLERS

Corrinna with its many lakes is well stocked with fish of all kinds, it is very sure that the only White fish found in the county are taken from the waters of Clearwater lake, and the large amount of sugar maple was a favorite home, hunting and fishing ground of the Red men of the forest. The Sioux had several villages as stopping place on the banks of the beautiful lakes, and many of their dead are buried here; on the north side of Clearwater lake quite a number of Indian graves have been found; they never left their dead except in favorite and level pleasant spots on the banks of lovely streams or on the shores of beautiful lakes.

THE MOUND BUILDERS

But all along the shores of the lakes on many prominent points, the relics of a more ancient race of men are found; the same kind of mounds, nearly always three in a row and equal distants from each other, about 24 feet in diameter and seven or eight feet high at present, though they have withstood the action of storm and wind, of heat and cold, the action of the elements for ages; very often a giant oak two hundred years old stands in the

center of one of these relics of a mysterious long ago; occasionally a large single mound is found on some high bank or prominent point, overlooking the lakes, and seems to have been used as a signal mound on which fires were evidently kept burning.

On the west bank of Clearwater lake, in sections 20, 21, 17 and 18, in cultivated fields and in the timber, many ancient mounds are found, and extending for three or four miles on the south and west banks of this lake, there probably was a large settlement of those old unknown people.

FIRST WHITE SETTLERS

In August 1856, Levi H. Dakin, Charles Dakin, John F. Doble, Eligah Doble, Ebenezer Perry, Thomas Doble and Lorenzo Doble, all from the state of Maine, visited the town and took claims on the south side of Clearwater lake. Some of them built log houses and claim shanties the same year, and in the spring of 1857, several families were in the settlement. As the first settlers, the pioneers, had to cut out roads and build bridges for many miles, it was rather slow work moving families or household goods. During these first years, roads were opened to the town of Clearwater, about 15 miles, at least ten miles of heavy timber; during this and the following year many claims were taken, and the few pioneers from Maine were joined by men of all nationalities. In 1858 came Mr. M. S. Harriman, and settled on section 18, where he has continued to live and administer spiritual consolation to many of the afflicted; as a citizen and as a preacher he has been a useful man, holding the offices of town clerk and postmaster for several years. In the spring of 1859 came H. L. Gordon, S. A. Gordon and C. M. Gordon from Pennsylvania. C. M. and S. A. Gordon, still remain in this town, and are prosperous farmers. H. L. Gordon resides at Minneapolis; he spent several years in Wright county, at Clearwater and at Monticello, held the office of county commissioner, county attorney and state senator. Octavius Longworth came in the spring of 1859 from New York City; he had for several years been a prosperous merchant in that city, but the financial crash of 1858 left him

almost disgusted with city life and the tricks of trade, and he sought and found a home in the then far west, on the borders of civilization. He took a claim in a beautiful, spot on the north shore of Clearwater lake, in section 8; here for the past twenty years he has live a quiet life. Now 77 years of age, he looks and feels hale and hearty, and is in every respect a gentleman of the old school with all of the more modern acquirements. He has a commodious mansion in a beautiful grove near the shores of the lake, and at a short distance has erected several cottages for summer visitors and tourists.

His summer visitors are generally select, those who wish to spend a season of quiet, peace and happiness. He has several boats, and the excellent fishing and hunting, and the high moral and religious character of the place and its inhabitants render this one of the most delightful watering places or summer resorts to be found in the state. In 1871 Mr. Longworth, together with Rev. D. B. Knickerbacker of Minneapolis, built a fine church on the grounds, well finished and furnished; it is a gem, and shows the excellent taste of the builders. It was dedicated in September 1871; during the winter season. Services are not held very regularly, but in winter and summer when there is no regular clergyman to officiate, Mr. Longworth, as lay reader, holds services in the church. Mr. Longworth has held the office of town clerk ten years, and the pay has been something less than ten dollars per year; he has also been justice of the peace six years, and the whole amount of fees received during the six years was two dollars and seventy-five cents, nearly all disputes and trouble between neighbors and **others** have been settled by him without litigation.

TOWN ORGANIZATION

When Clearwater was organized, May 10th, 1858, it included the towns of Corrinna and southside, but at the electing of the board of county commissioners in January 1860, a petition was received from citizens of the two towns asking that township 121, ranges 27 and 28 be organized as a separate town, and to be named Delhi; the petition was granted, and the first town meeting was held at the house of O. Longworth, April 2nd, 1860, and the following persons were elected town officers;

Supervisors- H. L. Gordon, chairman, Levi H. Dakin, Elijah Doble, Jr.
Town Clerk- Octavius Longworth.
Collector- John F. Doble.
Justices of the Peace- Ed Moody, O. Longworth.
Constables- F. Dakin, John F. Doble.

June 9th, 1864, on petition of citizens of the town of Delhi, the following resolution was passed by the board of county commissioners; "Resolved, that the town of Delhi be hereafter known as the town of Corinna."

February 19th, 1868, the town of Southside, somprising the west half of the town of Corinna, township 121, range No. 28.

The present board of town officers of Corinna are, Supervisors, S. A. Gordon, chairman, P. K. Heberling, O. M. Harriman; Town clerk, Wm. Ponsford; Assessor, J. P. Shire; Treasurer, M. S. Harriman; Justices of the Peace, Geo. Winget, Cyrenus Pullen; Constables, Ed. W. Day, John Coats.

POST-OFFICE

A post-office was established in 1868, and M. S. Harriman was appointed post-master; the office was kept on Sec. 18. In 1878 William Ponsford was appointed postmaster, and the office was removed to his dwelling on section 17; the office is supplied by the Clearwater and Howard Lake mail route, on Fridays and Saturdays.

SCHOOLS

There are four school districts in the town; the first school was opened in the house of E. Doble, in June 1862; the first school house was built in 1868; the fist frame school house was built in 1871; the citizens of Corinna have generally taken an interest in schools, and education has been one of the leading interests.

CHURCHES

In 1859 Rev. Bartlett Blaine held meeting in town; and they have had a good supply of local preachers; there are no organized churches except the Protestant Episcopal church at Longworth's, and the German Methodist church located on the northwest corner of section 9. Rev. Mr. Mentz commenced preaching here in 1868; the church was built in 1875, and is a very neat and a well finished building; there is also a cemetery on section 9 near the church, and another at the Longworth church.

The first child born in town was Emery Dakin, so of Charles Dakin, born September 10th, 1858. The first death was Elijah Doble, Sr., December 5th, 1857. The first marriage, Cyrus Smith and Sarah W. Longworth, 1860.

MILLS

Daniel Haberling, of Pennsylvania, put up a steam saw mill on the east side of Clearwater lake in August 1865, on section 9, about twenty-five horse power, and it was in operation several years. Daniel Haberling died May 21, 1871, and his son P. Haberling has continued the mill business.

In 1870 Mr. Reynolds built a dam and water power saw mill on section 21, at the outlet of Cedar lake, and near Clearwater lake; it was rented to the Haberlings who run it eight or ten years, but it fell into decay and was burned in 1880; there are no mills in operation at present.

EARLY HARDSHIPS. GINSENG

The first settlers underwent many hardships; without any local market,

heavy timber land to clear, new roads to make long distances, small crops the first years, and during 1858 and 1859, the hard times and no money in circulation, very little to sell at very low prices, some of the early settlers were obliged to give up their claims and leave the town or starve. Most of those who remained were reduced to the last extremity; many of the claims were not paid for, and taking all things together the prospect was anything but pleasant. But in 1860 the ginseng business opened. Corinna was noted for the immense amount of ginseng gathered; many of the settlers earned two and three hundred dollars that season, besides doing the usual and necessary work on the farm; mortgages were paid off, old debts were paid, farms were paid for, new settlers came in and the settlement took new life and prosperity. One of the old settlers, L. H. Dakin, says that he dug one dollar and fifty cents worth after he had done a long, hard day's work on the farm and while his wife was setting supper; he did not go fifteen rods from his house. During those years of **privation** the fish in Clearwater lake were of much use as an article of food, and many of the old settlers still enjoy fishing, and still talk of the times when they would find very little **to subsist on but the never-failing fish.**

INDIAN SCARE OF 1862 and 1863.

As prosperity began to dawn on the backwoods settlements, good crops and seeming plenty in the future, in August 1862, the Indian war broke out. Ten thousand rumors of "Indians in the Big Woods" were in circulation; of course, there was no safety in such isolated places with timber on all sides, and as was supposed from well founded reports that the Indians were liable at any moment to make an attack, a panic seized them, and with one accord and in a disorganized and demoralized state started for a place of safety. Nearly all went pell mell to Clearwater, many of them leaving everything behind; as teams were not plenty , many went on foot taking what they could carry, and leaving nearly everything to the tender mercies of the savages, or what was worse, white stragglers. The town was left without an inhabitant for many days, but after awhile first one and then another returned to find, in many cases, their crops destroyed and other property missing; a few returned

no more. Peace and quiet was nearly restored, when on the 3rd day of July 1863, news reached the settlement of the murder of the Dustin family; the panic and flight of the previous year was repeated with intensity. Not an inhabitant was left in town; after a week or ten days several settlers returned cautiously and when on the east side of Clearwater lake heard two or three shots fired on the west side. When they arrived in the vicinity they found the cattle much frightened and that one of Mr. Dakin's oxen had been shot; he was shot in the side of the head the ball lodging in the throat; he was driven to Clearwater and killed the next day, as it was decided that he could not live. A calf was found with an Indian arrow sticking in its back. The Indians who have been mentioned in the history of Cokato as having stolen horses near Fair Haven and were chased by scouts through the county southwest, were the ones that shot the cattle in Corinna; the Fairhaven scouts were about an hour behind them at Clearwater lake. After a few weeks, more the settlers returned to find that again had their crops been destroyed and many houses broken open; chickens, ducks and geese were missing, and many articles taken from the houses. The numerous parties of scouts patrolling the county sometimes got out of rations, and some of them seemed to think that all deserted property was public plunder; it took two or three years for this town to recover from the Indian scare of 1862 and 1863.

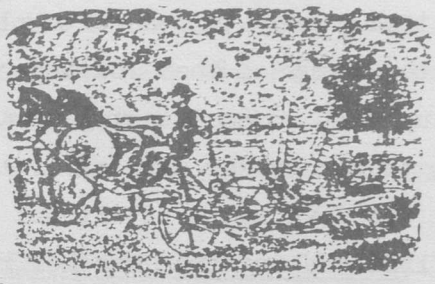
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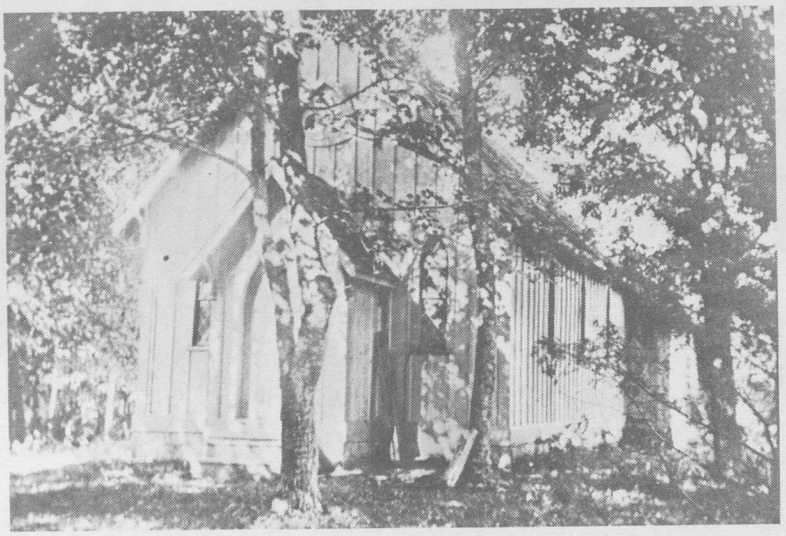
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St. Mark's Episcopal Church in the Woods on the Longworth grounds.



Octavius Longworth homestead on the shore of Clearwater Lake.



Pioneer homestead south of Annandale



Annandale's first postoffice building.

COUNTY NEWS

March 30, 1882

The County History.--On account of so much other manner which unavoidably crowds us this week, we are obliged to lay over the history. The publication thereof will be resumed next week, and continued and concluded as fast as our limited space permits.

B. F. HAYES,

MONTROSE, MINN.

—DEALER IN—

Dry Goods, Groceries,

Boots and Shoes,

HATS & CAPS.

TOWN OF FRANKFORT

Frankfort is in the northeastern part of Wright county, township No. 120, range 24, and the fractional township No. 120, range 23, north of Crow river. The town is bounded on the south and east by Rockford and Crow river; on the north by Otsego and Monticello; on the west by Buffalo. The town was before settlement timber land, except about 500 acres in section 25 and 36, township 120, range 24, and fractional parts of sections 30 and 31, township 120 range 23 west of Crow river, and known as Winnoshiek prairie, so-called on account of the Winnebago chief by the name having resided at the place two or three years. In most of the town the timber is oak, maple, basswood, elm, and is quite heavy. The soil is equal to any in the county, very little sandy or light soil. There are many natural meadows and hay is plenty. Pelican lake, the largest in the county, lies partly in this town, in sections 5, 6, 7 and 8, covering about 2,000 acres; lake Beebe, in sections 29 and 30, about 300 acres; Steele lake, in section 33, 200 acres; School lake, in section 16, Gutzwiller lake, in section 11, Granz lake, in section 23, Uhl's lake, in section 21, Mud lake in section 29, Foster lake in section 3, town 120, range 23, and a part of Schmidt's lake, Charlotte lake and Walker lake, in the southwest part of the town. The above named lakes cover 100 to 300 acres each. With Crow river running the entire length of the town, about twelve miles, and with several creeks running into the same, the town is well watered.

THE MOUND BUILDERS

Frankfort is one of the oldest and first settled towns in the county. But long before the white settlers came, the town was inhabited; the ancient mound builders were here, as the numberous mounds show. On section 1, township 120, range 23, near Crow river, there is one large mound about 100 feet in diameter and 12 feet high. Twenty-five years ago there was a monster elm growing on the top of the mound; there are sixteen mounds on about 40 acres, in section 10 in the same township, on land owned by John McRaw, known as the Butler claim. There is one large mound on a high point of land; this is

75 feet in diameter and 12 feet high and on each side are six and at a short distance north are three more. All of the smaller mounds are about 30 feet in diameter and 6 feet high, but many of them have been plowed and cultivated for years. On section 13 near Winnoshiek prairie are several of the smaller mounds; and at several other places in town, on the shores of the lakes and on many beautiful spots along the banks of Crow river, the traces of that mysterious race are found.

THE INDIANS

the Winnebagos had a trading house on Winnoshick prairie, and here was the home of the chief for several years. A mile below was an Indian burying ground on section 13, near Crow river; near this the first white settlers found a circular fort or stockade, covering about a quarter of an acre; when and what it was built for is unknown. It was made of split timber set in the ground, and the entrance was through a hole in the ground on the side next to the river. In 1856 it was set on fire by the carelessness of some campers and consumed. On the 5th of May 1855, the Indians began to move away, and by the end of the month about all had left.

THE FIRST WHITE SETTLER

The first settler was Samuel Reems, who took a claim on section 1, township 120, range 23, on the 7th day of August 1854, where he now resides. Samuel Reems was born in Pennsylvania, on the 12th of March 1788; went to West Virginia in 1811; in 1851 came to Minnesota. He has been a farmer during his life, and is nearly ninety-four years of age, and is now the oldest person in the county, in good health and with all his faculties; he can work, and walk to Dayton, two miles and back in two hours, as he very often does.

The next settler or explorer was John K. Aydt, who with his son Leonhard looked over the town in 1854, and made a long journey up the north fork of Crow river, where they came very near starving on account of their small

stock of provisions giving out, and the scarcity of game; they only had one duck in three days. He selected claims for each of his sons, and one for his brother Edward Aydt in section 24, township 120, range 24, in September 1854, building shanties and fulfilling the requirements of the claim or pre-emption laws. He also purchased a claim at the mouth of Crow river, opposite the village of Dayton, for which he paid $1,000. He and others laid out a town called Aydt's Town, built two or three houses and established a ferry which was run by Chas. Aydt several years. The town was a suburb of the great city of Northwood, and when O. H. Kelly's city fell, Aydt's Town went with it. The title to the land went into litigation and John K. Aydt lost his $1,000. John Zachmann and family, himself, wife and three children, settled on their present home on the 6th of May 1855. John and Walter McAlphine, Henry Depue, Peter Scheyrich, Edward Aydt and many others came about the same time or soon thereafter. Walter Butler came in October 1854 and settled on section 10, township 120, range 23. Thomas and William Dean from New Brunswick, came the following year and settled on section 9 near the river. In the spring of 1855 came Jacob Bingenheimer, Phillip Schneider and Adam Meyer, and settled on Winnoshiek prairie, Meyer moving into the old Indian trading house. The same spring came Jacob Vollbrecht, Martin and Andrew Schuler, the Marx family, all Germans, and many others, and a large portion of the town was taken by pre-emption claimants; many pre-empted their claims and became actual settlers. A large proportion than in any other town in the county and there was less speculation, claim jumping or litigation than in other localities.

TOWN OF FRANKFORT

In 1856, during the month of August, steps were taken towards building a church and securing divine services, in which Peter Scheyrich, John Zachmann, Edward Aydt, John Dehmer, Felix Reyling, X. Demler, and a number of others were active. The house, a respectable log building for those days, was erected on the claim of Mr. Scheyrich in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 18 township 120 range 23, for which purpose he donated 20 acres, and in the early part of September, the same year, Rev. Father Weninger and another Catholic priest arrived and held divine services, remaining several days, and founded the Catholic church and congregation of St. Michaels. This made Crow river settlement, as it was then called, known, and during that month and October a great many new settlers, nearly all German Catholics, arrived and made claims, most of them still holding their original claims and are now prosperous farmers. Among these were the families of Zahler, Hagemeyer, Vetsch, Gutzwiller, Nelles, Frey, Schumacher, Lindenfelser, Wiedermann, Ebben, Gerbert, Willems, and a number of others most of whom still remain and must be considered as pioneers of the town.

During the fall of 1856 and winter of 1856 to 1857, the land between Crow river and Pelican lake was nearly all taken by pre-emption claimants, so that very few in this town enjoyed the benefits of the homestead act later passed by congress.

In the southwestern part of the town several American and Irish families settled the same year. Thomas Steele from Illinois settled in section 28 near the lake which bears his name. Joseph Balls took a claim in section 32 where he resided nearly 20 years. J. E. Beebe, a native of Vermont, took a claim in section 29, on the south side of the lake which bears his name. He moved onto his claim Dec. 2, 1856; on the 12th of Sept. 1857, he cut his foot and bled to death; his widow now resides at Rockford. Amos Denny took a claim on the east shore of lake Beebe, in Aug. 1856; W. O. Eldred at the same time settled near Beebe's. All of the above named Americans came to the territory now state, with the Rockford mill company in June 1856. John Elliott Sen., Andrew and William Elliott took claims on the north side of the lake the same year. James Dixon came in November 1856, and settled

in section 32 on the shore of lake Charlotte, where he now resides. The last named settlers are Irishmen.

FIRST BIRTH

The first white child born in the town was Mary T. Zachmann, born August 26, 1856. She is now the wife of Henry Berning who is also a native of the town.

FIRST MARRIAGE

The first marriage in town was Anton Schnitzler and Catharine Knoebel, married at about the time of the first mission of Rev. Father Weninger in September 1856. That of Henry Aydt and Mary Marx, on August 24, 1857, was the next.

EARLY DEATHS

Among the early deaths may be mentioned that of Mathias Guffard, a young man well though of by those who knew him; he died on the 25th or 26th of April 1857. Mr. Guffard and his brother-in- law, Wendelin Hund, in the winter of 1856 and 1857 made claims in section 15, after which Hund returned to his family at St. Anthony, and Guffard remaining on the claims most of the time during the winter fixing up his claim shanty and clearing a little land. On the day previous to his death he was seen in his usual good health, and on the next morning, a neighbor, by the way more than a mile distant from his shanty, having occasion to call on him, found the shanty locked and seemingly no one around, though it was known that the owner had not left. Suspicion that all was not right being entertained, other neighbors were called, and when the shanty was opened, Guffard was found lying on the ground (there was no floor in the shanty) in the night clothes, dead. It was afterwards learned that he was subject to epileptic fits and had no doubt died from that cause, The corpse and effects were taken in charge by neighbors, and I. Gutzwiller Jr. volunteered the trip through mud and water, and without conveyance in those days, to St. Anthony to apprise the relatives of Mr. Guffard of his

sad and sudden end. Mr. Hund came up from the city to arrange for and attend the funeral and take charge of the deceased's property.

On the 2nd of May 1857, occurred the death of another young man in the new settlement. Andreas Marx, aged about 22 years. He and his relatives had taken claims in sections 25 and 35, partly on and just west of Winnoshiek prairie. There was some dispute between them and one John Brenner about priority of possession or claim lines, and the day named, while returning with others from work on their claims they met or passed Brenner when the claim dispute was broached and the latter raising his gun shot young Marx through the body, who died the following night or day. Brenner left the settlement immediately, and was seen the next day by parties who had not at the time heard of the occurrence, passing near by what is now the village of St. Michaels, going in the direction of and asking the way to Monticello, claiming he had some trouble with neighbors and wanted to see a lawyer. If he went to Monticello, it is supposed he went from there to St. Paul where he sold his claim to an acquaintance for a small sum of money, and has not been heard from since. As no township organization existed at the time, there was no justice of the peace, nor constable in the settlement, and the relatives of the murdered man had to go to Northwood to make complaint. O. H. Kelly Esq., then justice of the peace, issued a warrant for the arrest of Brenner, but before it could be served the latter had fled the country.

POST OFFICES

During the winter of 1856 to 1857, the need of regular mail communication or postal service was gradually felt in the town, especially in the German, so-called Crow river settlement; the nearest and most convenient post office was Dayton, at the mouth of Crow river, and the supply of mail matter was very irregular and slow. There was no established mail route through the town, or nearer than Dayton, and as nothing was done by the government at the time to remedy this, sometime in March 1857, an arrangement was entered into by a number of settlers, by which one was to go to Dayton once a week, carrying and forwarding letters & for those who had agreed to the arrangement, and bringing their mail matter in return. I. Gutzwiller Jr. and a Mr. Demler

made the first trip on foot through water, ice and snow, and under this arrangement carried the first regular mail into the town. This arrangement lasted for some time and was the means of supplying the German settlement quite regularly with mail.

Early in 1858 a mail route was established from Dayton to Rockford and Greenwood, upon which service commenced in June or July that year, and Alexander Armstrong, familiarly known at the time, as Col. Armstrong, was the first government, or paid mail carrier. In the latter part of the summer that year Mr. Anthony Berning, who was then keeping a store on the old Frankfort townsite, the same place where he now resides, applied for and had the Postmaster General establish the St. Michaels postoffice with weekly mail service, and Mr. Berning was appointed postmaster. He resigned in January 1865, and the postoffice was temporarily discontinued. In the summer of that year, I. Gutzwiller Jr. made a move to get the postoffice re-established and was appointed postmaster; he resigned in 1871, sometime after locating at Buffalo, when Mr. F. T. Aydt was appointed, who was succeeded on the 1st of April 1881, by J. K. Zachmann, who is now postmaster. The office has now daily mail service, alternately from east and west, on the Minneapolis, Osseo and Monticello route, and supplies three times a week, the Hanover postoffice at Vollbrecht's mills in this town, where Mr. L. W. Haefer is postmaster. The Hanover postoffice was established sometime in October 1877, after the advent to that place of Mr. Haefer, who also keeps a good country store. St. Michaels and Hanover are the two postoffices in the township.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

Under the first county organization Frankfort was a part of Pleasant Grove precinct until April 1858, when the county commissioners set it off into a separate town. The name it derived from the old townsite of "Frankfort on the Crow," on the NE¼ of section 18, township 120, range 23, laid out by Peter Scheyrich in January 1857. This was in the townsite mania, when speculation in town lots and paper cities was running wild. At the time the townsite was laid out, Mr. Scheyrich was offered $2,500 for his claim. He refused to take it, and four months later sold it to J. K. Aydt for $1,000 who later sold it to Anthony Berning for about $300, and it is now a valuable farm. This is a fair sample of how the value of property went down after the financial crash of 1857.

The first township election was held in the house of Anthony Berning, on May 11, 1858, and the following named town officers were elected:

Supervisors-Wm. W. McAlphine, chaiman; Jacob Bingenheimer, Anthony Berning.
Town Clerk- John M. McAlphine.
Assessor- Gerhard Ebben.
Justice of the Peace- Wm. W. McAlphine, Jacob Bingenheimer.
Constables- Albert Lewis, Leonhard Aydt.
Overseers of highways- John Zachman, 1st dist; Jacob Vetsch, 2nd dist; Eward Aydt, 3rd dist.; Conrad Meyer, 4th dist.

At the meeting it was voted that all animals, except sucking pigs four weeks old, may run at large.

The first bill for public services, presented to the town for payment was as follows:

Town of Frankfort Dr. to Gerhard Ebben, Sept. 1, 1858, to assessing the town, 20 days $20.00, Gerhard Ebben. $6.00 off. W. W. McAlphine, chairman. Paid $14.00.

The first petition presented to the board of supervisors reads as follows:

Frankfort, Oct. 12, 1858

To the supervisors of the town of Frankfort:

We the undersigned citizens of said town hereby petition you to lay out a public road commencing at the upper limits of the town and following Crow

river as near as practicable to the other end.

Signed by Phillip Schneider and 18 others.

The official oaths filed read thus:

I hereby promise to faithfully perform the duties of supervisor of Frankfort. So help me God.

May 12, 1858, ANTHONY BERNING.

In presence of W. W. McAlphine, Justice of the Peace.

It is said that brevity is the soul of wit, and the above forms might be called the soul of business, and would answer to copy in much of the legal forms of to-day, instead of the long bills and verifications, and the long drawn petitions and iron-class official oaths now in use. The town officers performed their duties as faithfully and conscienciously as if they had sworn and subscribed to an oath as long as those manufactured during the great rebellion.

During this year several roads were laid out and the town made good progress. A road was opened the entire length of the town, from the south line along and to near the mouth of Crow river; and also several cross roads.

Clearing land and farming on a small scale was the principal business and occupation of the people. But little stock and no horses were in the town then. Ginseng digging was carried on some, but not to the extent as in some of the other towns.

STORES

The first store in the town was that of Peter Scheyrich, on the old Frankfort townsite, now the Berning farm, in the spring of 1856. It was a small concern, and also dealt in whiskey; he was the first to sell that article in the new settlement, and was familiarly known as "Whiskey Peter." He sold out to and was succeeded in the store by Anthony Berning, in April 1857, who continued the business on the old place, but on a larger scale and in a better building until the spring of 1865, when he gave up the business, giving his entire attention to farming.

During the later part of 1857, Jacob and Joseph Vetsch kept a small store on their claim, in the SW¼ of section 1, town 120, range 24, but gave

up the business afer about two years. The next store was that of John Igel, at the present townsite of St. Michaels; he sold out to Henry Invie in 1863, who in the spring of 1866, sold out and was succeeded by F. T. Aydt and Joseph Vetsch, the latter after a brief interval settling his interest to Aydt, and withdrawing from the business. Aydt still continues in the business and has the most substantial store building in the county, with a first class stock of general merchandise, and does a prosperous and remunerative business.

John K. Zachmann is the next merchant at St. Michaels; he commenced business on July 4, 1878, and continues to-day, with a full stock of general merchandise, and is doing an excellent business, keeping also hotel and post office.

Henry Invie, after an absence of a few years from the town, bought a farm in section 36, and again opened store at the present site of Hanover, in 1872, and sold out to and was succeeded by L. W. Haefer in 1877, who has greatly enlarged the business, erecting new buildings, and keeps now a first class country store, with hotel and post office.

F. T. Aydt and J. K. Zachmann, at St. Michaels, and L. W. Haefer, at Hanover, being the merchants in the township, and their stores compare favorable with some of the best stores in the county, doing business in prosperous communities, they cannot fail of success.

BREWERY

The first brewery in town, and in fact the first one in the county, was built in 1862, by Joseph Zahler, in section 13, on the bank of Crow river. It was burned down in 1867, and rebuilt by Zahler & Weis; the latter soon afterwards buying Zahler's interest, and conducting the business alone. It was again burned and rebuilt on a larger scale. In 1877 it was burned a third time and again rebuilt on the same place on still larger scale, and is now owned and conducted by Geo. E. Weis, who is evidently doing a good business, besides conducting his farm, owning also 80 acres of land upon which the brewery is located. He has about $4,000 invested in the brewery business.

MILLS

Anton Haffner built a steam saw mill in section 12 near St. Michaels in 1879, and has been doing a good business part of the time.

Anthony Berning and sons have built a dam on Crow river, in section 18, in 1881, for a water power saw and grist mill, but have as yet not accomplished much. They are making preparations for securing good water power, and erecting and operating, first a saw mill, to be followed also by a large flouring mill, and before long will have part of their business in operation.

The principal mill men in town, however, are Jacob and William Vollbrecht. The former came to Frankfort in October 1855, and made a claim in section 35, on Crow river. William Vollbrecht with his family came in April 1856. William is a blacksmith and can work almost anything in iron or steel, his trade in Germany was that of a locksmith. Jacob works in wood, is a carpenter, wagon-maker and mill-wright. In May 1856, they commenced to build a dam and mill on Crow river; both were so far completed early the following winter so that the saw mill was started. It run about two months, and on the 8th of February 1857, the dam broke, and nearly all went out, taking mill and part of dwelling which latter was built to near the river, with it down stream; they saved one side of the roof. Not discouraged, they went to work on another dam and mill; but it was slow work, farming, blacksmithing and building houses for new settlers to earn means to proceed with their mill enterprise. By hard

work and economy they succeeded. A saw and grist mill were completed in two years, besides supporting family, and paying for machinery. The mills were just about finished and ready for business, when the dam broke again and the whole establishment tripped into the river and was a total wreck. This was a hard blow for the brothers and for the present they gave up the mill business on Crow river.

In 1860, they purchased a tract of land near St. Michaels, on a creek the out-let of a string of lakes and marshes, and supposing that they had a water power they could control, they built a dam and saw mill, but the supply of water was insufficient and the supposed water power a failure. The saw mill was operated a short time during wet seasons, first by Vollbreachts and afterwards by Peter Duerr, to whom they sold the land, and the mill was finally abandoned. It is said that extremes sometimes meet. So it was with this mill enterprise of water power-on Crow river they had too much water, on this creek, by some at the time supposed to be the outlet of Pelican Lake, they had none. Pelican Lake has no visible outlet.

In 1867 they concluded to try Crow river once more. They built a short distance below the old millsite, and have succeeded remarkabley since that time, having now a good water power, substantial dam and good mills, both saw and flouring mills, and all this has been accomplished by untiring energy, economy and persevering industry and diligence in their business. Jacob and William Vollbrecht are deservedly entitled to be named and regarded as the pioneer mill men in the town of Frankfort. In 1877, a post office was established at the mills and L. W. Haefer appointed postmaster. Vollbrecht Bros. named it Hanover, in the honor of their native country, Hanover, in Germany.

RAILROADS

In 1881, the Osseo branch of the St. P. M. & M. Ry. was built through the northwestern portion of this town, crossing Crow river in section 9, town 120, range 23, and is now in operation with daily trains from Minneapolis via Osseo and Monticello to Clearwater. A station is or will be established on the north line of the township at or near the farm of Valentine Herman, two

miles from St. Michaels. Several surveys of projected railroads have been made through the town previous to thelocation of the present line, but the roads have not materialized. Evidently the company or companies making the surveys were feeling for bonuses, but the baits did not draw, and the people were neither fooled nor caught.

CROW RIVER

During the early settlement of the town and country adjacent to the stream and before it was obstructed much by dams and water power improved, Crow river was more or less utilized for transportation of goods.

The first steamboat built on the Mississippi above the Falls of St. Anthony, the "Gov. Ramsey," made a trip up Crow river during the high water season of 1855, coming as far as the crossing and bridge on the present Minneapolis and Monticello stage road, bringing some goods for traders, it supposed, and again returning. About two years later another small steam craft from somewhere near Watertown, made the trip down stream to St. Anthony, but failed to return. For some years and while roads were few and almost impassable, goods were transported by steamboats from the Falls of St. Anthony to Dayton, thence in small boats pulled and propelled by men up Crow river to St. Michaels and Rockfor. This was slow and heavy work but it was the cheapest and most profitable conveyance during the high water and muddy seasons in time of the early settlements along Crow river. Four or five men could propel as many goods as the same number of teams could haul. During one or two seasons a crew of men and a good sized boat made rather regular trips between Dayton and Rockford.

Frankfort has more main Crow river shore than any other town in the county, and several excellent water power chances awaiting only capital and energy to be improved and utilized. There is no doubt that in time to come there will be withing the limits of the town a number of mills and factories operated by water power on this stream.

SCHOOLS

The first move towards building a school house was made in the winter of 1858 to 1859, in what is now the St. Michael's district. A log house was built and put under roof in the S. W. Corner of sec. 1, town 120, range 24, but was never completed nor used for school purposes; the school laws, organization and district undergoing continual change in those days, and no school funds were to be had. In the summer of 1860 another log house was built near the road one-half mile north of St. Michaels, John Igel giving the land for the purpose, but was a long time before completed for use; it had to be built by voluntary work and contributions. The first school was held in an old log house- the claim shanty on the Gutzwiller farm or claim in section 11, town 120, range 24, in February 1862, and was taught by Mrs. Anna Fallihee, now of Waverly, while her husband was a volunteer soldier in the gallant Minnesota First, in the late rebellion. The district officers were, Mathias Maus, Jacob Vetsch and Gutzwiller Jr. After this, a school was regularly held in this (now St. Michael's) district every year, and other districts (No. 19, 44, 46 and 49) were organized in the town, Mrs. Fallihee teaching a subsequent term in No. 20 (St. Michaels) district in the winter of 1863 to 1864; she was a good teacher and kept a good school. To raise and secure the funds to pay teachers even small wages was one of the perplexing difficulties school officers had to contend with in those days. The first German school in the town, and the first in the county, was held in the old log house, a half mile north of St. Michaels, and was taught by I. Gutzwiller Jr., opened in September 1864, who taught in that district, both German and English, for four to nine months in each year for five years. In 1869, the frame school house at St. Michaels was built.

During the winter of 1874 to 1875, Rev. Father Schaller, then in charge of the congregation, inaugurated a move for establishing a school by the Sister de Notre Dame, and with himself, Anthony Berning, F. T. Aydt, John Zachmann and I. Gutzwiller Jr., were made a committee to solicit subscription and secure means for that purpose. They found more oposition than encouragement, and to carry the enterprise through, had to advance most of the money themselves. A brick-veneered building, 34x48 feet and two and half stories high, was erected during the summer of 1875, and finished and

partly furnished during the following spring and summer. On September 12, 1876, three Sisters arrived from the mother house at Milwaukee, and opened school on the 30th of the same month, with 15 pupils; at the end of the year 158 pupils were enrolled. During the course of the next scholastic year, two more Sisters arrived, and the school was divided into three departments, offering an opportunity to such as wished to study the higher branches. The total enrollment of pupils since, has been:

1877 to'78.....156
1878 to '79.....165
1879 to'80.....143
1880 to'81.....152

The number of months taught each year is 10; the branches taught are all the common school branches, as also some of the higher branches, such as algebra, book-keeping, physiology and hygiene, etc.

Both German and English are taught, also music, plain and ornamental needle-work. The charges for resident and outside pupils vary; each family being taxed according to its means and number of children attending. Families in good circumstances, sending from 2 to 5 children, are charged from $4 to $7 for the whole year; poor children pay nothing. Young ladies from a distance attending the school and boarding with the Sisters are charged extra for board, washing, etc.

The order of these Sisters is not what is sometimes erroneously called "the Sisters of Charity," but instead "the School Sisters de Notre Dame." Their sole object and occupation being the education of the young. Perhaps it may be of interest to state here that the order is spread all over the United States and Canada; the total number of their convent houses in the U. S. and Canada, being 147; the total number of Sisters, 1,261; the total number of pupils under their instruction, 34,430; boarders in their institutes, 723; and orphans in their care and under their charge 1,115. These figures are taken from the annual report of last year, from their mother house at Milwaukee.

That a house and school of this order is now permanently established in this town is principally due to Rev. Father Schaller, who had done more for church and school at St. Michaels than any other one man.

Besides the above institute there is also at this place (St. Michaels) a good public school house in which from four to six months school is taught each year. The other school districts in the town are No. 19, 44,46 and 49, in each of which there is a good school house, and from four to six months school is taught in each every year.

THE INDIAN SCARE

The Indian troubles in this state in 1862-63 affected the town some, but **nobody** was hurt and no property was destroyed. At the first news of the murders in Meeker county and the massacres on the upper Minnesota river in August 1862, everybody got scared. The reports that the Indians had already invaded Wright county set nearly the whole population in commotion. Some few families left for the cities, from the south part of the town those that left took refuge at Rockford, and in the north and central parts most of them gathered at the old church at St. Michaels, then still on the present Berning place. The first real alarm was given in the night, and before daylight and early in the morning and during the forenoon of August 25th, families, teams and what movables they could bring along, gathered about the old church in utter confusion. Most of then remained during the day and following night, after which they went home again. A few men volunteered as scouts, went some miles out and returned with reports of no signs of Indians; and news from other parts was also received that the reports of Indians invading the county were exaggerated or untrue. Some families did not leave their homes at all, but stayed in their houses or hid in bushes near by. The second scare, in 1863, when the Dustin family were murdered near Smith Lake, did not drive any from their homes. But a report that Indians had been seen at Pelican lake made quite a commotion. The report reached near St. Michaels that several Indians had been seen bathing on the East shore of the lake, when a motley little army of volunteers, young and old, with shot guns and what weapons were at hand, **started** at once to meet the red devils and give them battle; a few soldiers of Co. "E" Eighth Regt., then quartered at Monticello, hearing of the report, also appeared at the lake and joined the citizens volunteers. On arriving at the expected battle field, it was found that the supposed Indians were boys from the neighborhood digging ginseng, and the weather being warm, had been in the lake swimming. The volunteers, citizens and soldiers, thereupon amused themselves, practicing with their muskets, and firing in rapid succession over the calm waters of the lake. The musket reports were plainly heard a distance of three or four miles, near St. Michaels, and it was thought our volunteer defenders were engaged in deadly conflict with

the Indians. When they returned towards the evening and reported the result of their expedition, there was rejoicing in more than one family; and thus ended the Indian scare of 1862-63.

CHURCHES

The first church or house of public worship in this town was built in August 1856, on the Peter Scheyrich claim, now the Berning farm in the north-east quarter of section 18, town 120, range 23, near the left bank of Crow river, and in the first week in September that year Rev's. Fathers Weninger/and Mehlmann arrived from St. Paul and held divine services, founding the Catholic church and congregation of St. Michaels. From this the post office later established and the German Catholic settlement and present village of St.Michaels derived its name. The church was a log building 18 by 32 feet, and was used until 1863, when a larger frame addition was added, but never fully completed.

In the latter part of 1856, and during 1857, Rev's. Demetrius Morogna and Bruno Riess, O. S. B. of St. Paul, visited the congregation occasionally, often coming part of the way on foot through snow, mud and water and held divine services. In 1858, Rev. Cornelius Wittman, and Rev. George Scherer of St. Paul; in 1860, Rev. Eberhard Gahr, then of St. Anthony; in 1861, Rev. Benedit, Mainal, and in 1862 Rev. Father Clemense Staub, then of St. Paul, made occasional visits in the same way and gave divine services; when in the latter part of that year 1862, Rev. Magnus Mayer arrived and became the first resident priest, remaining until 1865. Under his ministration the addition to the old log church was erected, but on account of a somewhat bitter division in the congregation as to choice of locality, was never completed. Towards the close of the last named year, Rev. Gregory Koering became the resident pastor, and during the following year the church was removed to its present location-southwest corner of section 12, town 120, range 24 and partly completed for divine services. Rev. Koering remained to the close of 1869. During 1870, Rev. P. Maurer of Dayton, visited the place and held services at regular intervals. From 1871 to 1877, Rev. Ignatius Schaller was pastor. Under his ministration the congregation made the best progress, the church was completed and the school of the Sisters de Notre Dame was established. In 1877, Rev.

John A. Schroeder, the present pastor, arrived, and the good progress and footing of church and school so ably inaugurated by Rev. Shaller is well maintained. In July 1865, Rev.'s P. Mehlmann and Mr. Hildemann; in 1872, Rev. Father Weninger (his second visit) and in 1874, Rev. William Becker visited the **place** and held mission services. The congregation embraces at present nearly 100 families.

Other church societies in the town are the German Evangelical and the German Methodist churches, principally in the southeast part of the town, on and about Winnochiek prairie. They have as yet no regular house of worship, and services are helt at more or less regular intervals in private houses. One or both of these church societies existed and date back to the early settlement of the town, but of the names of pastors or visiting clergymen and membership of the societies, the writer has no data; they have, however, a lot of land set apart for church ground and cemetery on Winnoshiek prairie.

FRANKFORT IN THE CIVIL WAR

Frankfort took a creditable part in the war of 1861. So far as the records can be traced and from personal information, the **following** is a list of names of those at the time citizens of the town who served in the Union army:

Alois Aydt
Leonard Aydt
Henry Dean
August Wagner
John M. Frank
Christian Wolff
Samuel F. FUller
Con. Neil
William Roloff
William Reems
John Elliot
William Ullmann
Peter Middlestedt
Vincent Middlestedt
John Becker
Michael Kinna Sr.
Michael Kinna Jr.
Francis Chute
John Lindenfelser
W. E. Schumacher
James Reems
William Elliot

Peter Schumacher
Laurence Vetsch
Emil Gutzwiller
John Igel
Eberhard Linnemann
Joseph Reyling
A. Cochran
John Buol
Conrad Lutz
Valentin Varleritus
Jacob Vetsch
Ferdinand Gutzwiller
Nicholas Flass
Frank Zahler
J. B. Marx
William Cochran
Andrew Schuler
John Klaes

As near as now can be obtained the following named have lost their lives while in the service:

A. Cochran, 2nd Minn. Vol. Inf., mortally wounded and died in battle of Chickamauga, East Tenn.

John Klaes, 3rd Minn. Vol. Inf., died at Helena Arkansas.

Michael Kinna Sr., 4th Minn. Vol. Inf., killed in battle, at Allatoona East Tenn.

Laurence Vetsch, 4th Minn. Vol. Inf., died in camp hospital in East Tenn.

Christian Wolff, 5th Minn. Vol. Inf., died in military hospital, of wounds received in battle at Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Francis Chute, 9th Minn., Vol. Inf., died in hospital at Nashville, Tenn.

Peter Middlestedt, 9th Minn. Vol. Inf., died in camp hospital in Tenn. or Kentucky.

Michael Kinna Jr., 9th Minn. Vol. Inf., wounded in battle at Guntown, Tenn. taken prisoner and died in Andersonville, Ga.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

Compared with the number of population this town has expended more in labor and money for roads and bridges than any other town in the county, except perhaps Rockford. With some assistance from Wright and Hennepin counties four, bridges have been built over Crow River of which two now exist and are maintained in good order; and there are now not less than 40 miles of public highways or roads in use, all of which, from the nature of the country require constant care and repair. The first road surveyed and legally laid out was the so-called Rockford and Dayton road along Crow River, from the south line of the town to near the mouth of the river, a distance of 12 miles. The county has done little road surveying and has made few and small appropriations for roads in this town, but has helped considerably on Crow River bridges.

The first attempt to bridge the river was made in the winter of 1865 to 1866; one on Winnoshiek prairie at the Bingenheimer place, and one at the so-called Reyling Ford or Hassen Rapids. The one on the former place was the following year about completed but was swept away before actually opened for public travel. The first partly built Hassen bridge was also swept away, but rebuilt after much difficulty and considerable wrangling with the then county board, and finally completed, in the winter of 1867 to 1868, and a number of years maintained, until a new and more substantial bridge was built at the present crossing of the Minneapolis and Monticello road. This bridge was built by Vollbrecht Brothers, who may be called the pioneer bridge and mill builders of the town. On the completion the recently burnt mills at Hanover, some ten years ago the Vollbrechts, liberally assisted by town and county, also built a bridge at Hanover which is now maintained and in good order. Singularly enough, the town of Hasse, on the opposite side of the river, in Hennepin county, has never mustered up enterprise and interest enough to do anything towards the construction and maintainance of these bridges.

POPULATION AND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

The population of the town for the past twenty years, as shown by U.S. and State census, is as follows:

U. S. census of 1860	400
State census of 1865	463
U. S. census of 1870	564
State census of 1875	652
U. S. census of 1880	868

The agricultural reports of the year 1880 shows:

No. of acres in wheat	2,062
No. of acres in oats	553
No. of acres in barley	6
No. of acres in corn	713
No. of acres in rye	3
No. of acres in potatoes	72
No. of acres cultivated hay	12
No. of acres other products	24
Total no. of acres under cultivation	3,445
No. of apple trees growing	1,996
No. of apple trees bearing	797
No. of grape vines bearing	36

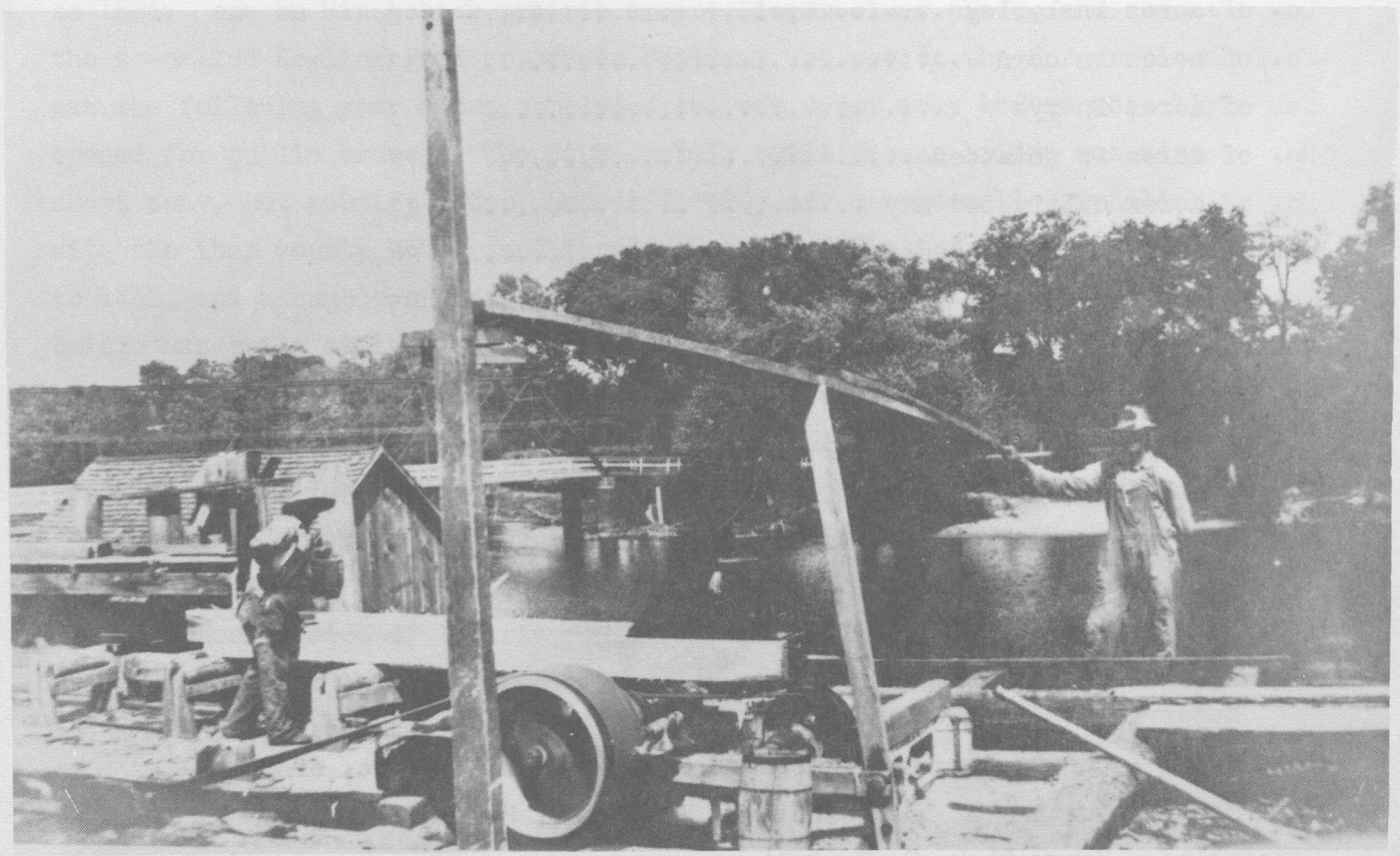
No. of milch cows, 388; sheep, 748; hogs, 510; horses, 190; beef cattle, 40. farms, 114; new farms opened during the year, 4.

PRESENT TOWN OFFICERS

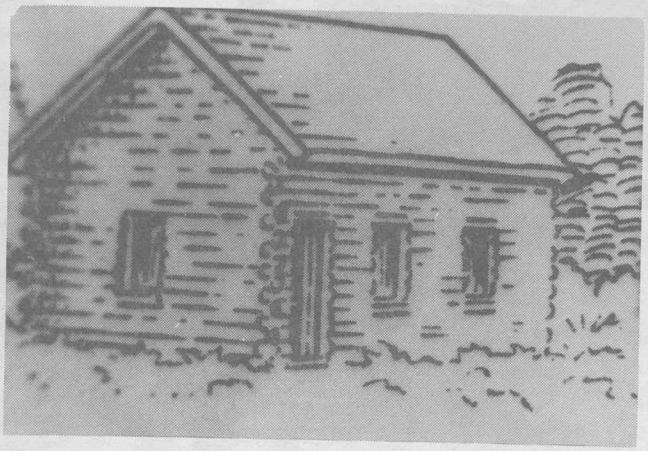
Supervisors - W.E. Schumacher, U. Anselment, Peter Eull, Town Clerk - Henry Berning. Assessor - August Wolff. Supt. of Poor - John Menth. Justice of the Peace - L. W. Haefer, Henry Berning. Constables - Henry Dick, F. T. Aydt.



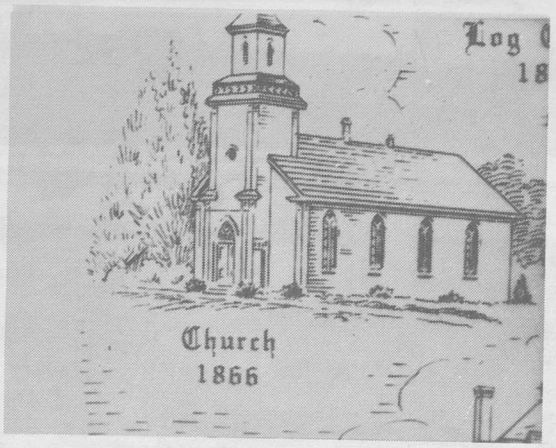
Mill building at Berning's site in Frankfort Township.



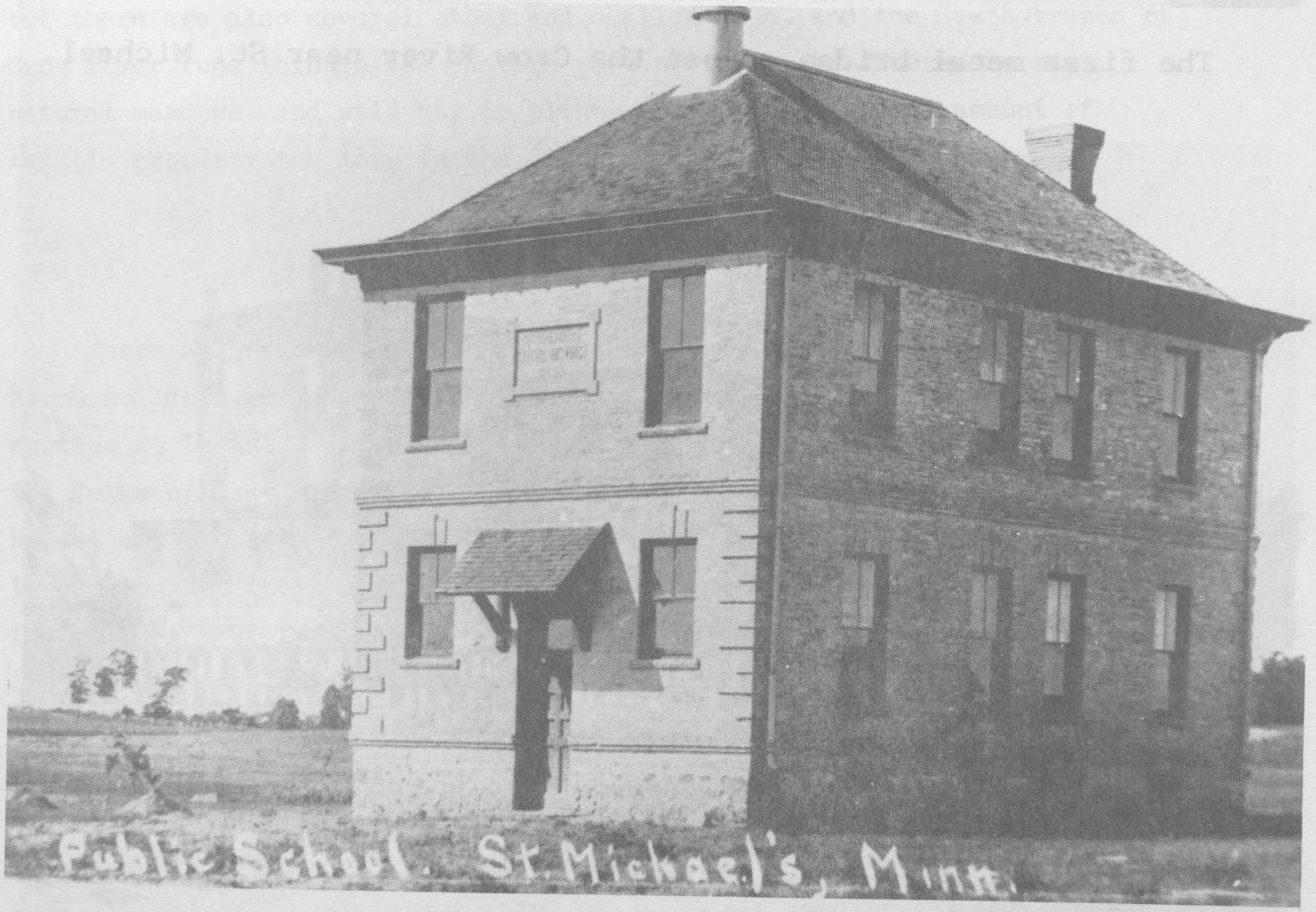
Water-powered saw mill rig used at Berning's Mill.



St. Michael Catholic Church first built in 1856.

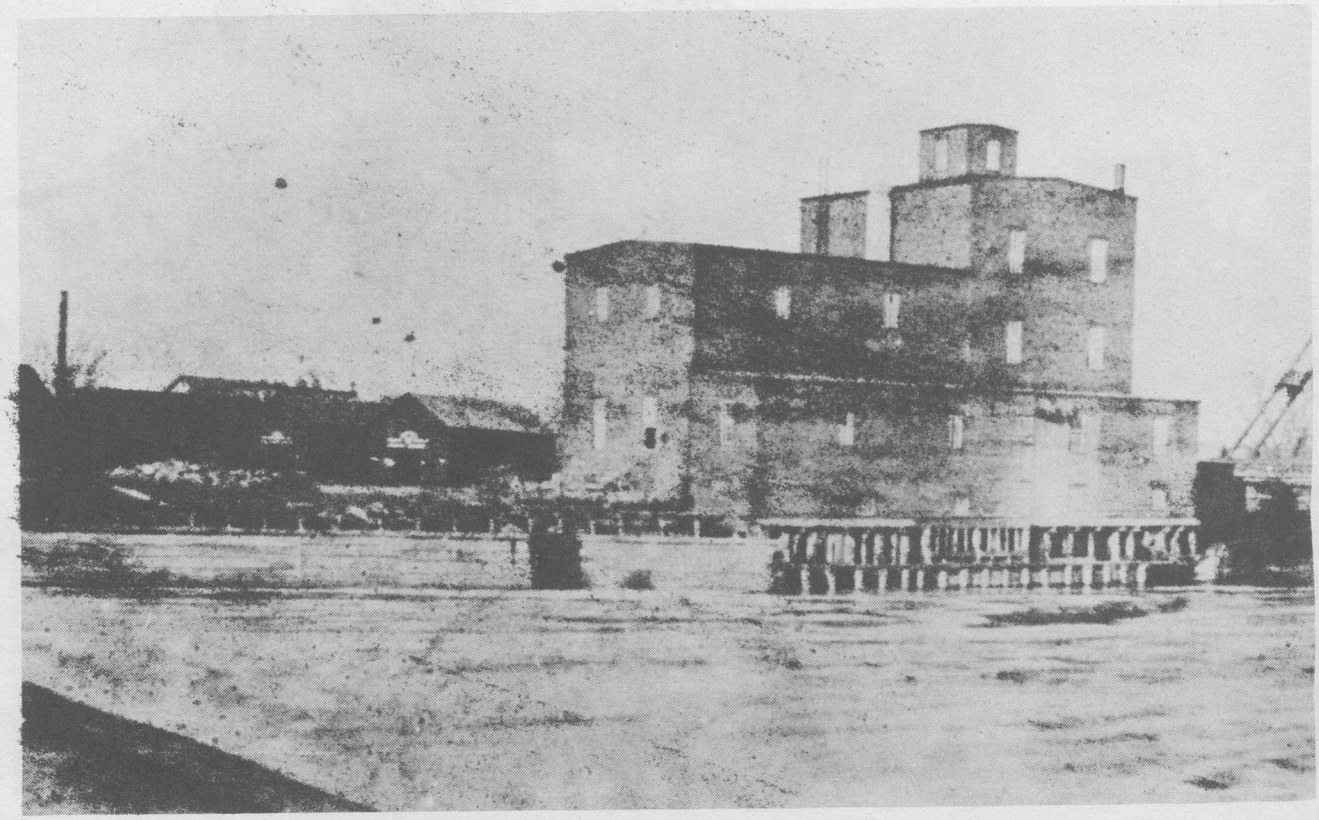


Second St. Michael Church building erected in 1866.





The first metal bridge across the Crow River near St. Michael.



Vollbrecht's original mill building at Hanover.

TOWN OF FRANKLIN

Franklin forms the southeast corner of the county, township No. 118, range 25, and that part of township No. 119, ranges 24 and 25 lying west of the South branch and south of the North branch of Crow river, containing in all about 46 square miles of territory. The town is bounded on the north by Rockford, from which it is divided by the North branch of Crow river, on the west by Marysville and Woodland, on the south by Carver county, and on the east by Hennepin county. The town was originally all timber land, except the natural meadows. The soil is a rich dark, deep loam, and as far as cultivated, very productive. The surface is uneven but not very much broken or hilly, and well watered. Fountain lake in the west part of the town, in sections 7 and 18, Cedar lake in section 16, and Rice lake in sections 35 and 36, are the principal lakes in the town; but there are also several other and smaller ones, and the South branch of Crow river runs through the eastern part of the town. There are many natural meadows, and wild hay is plenty. In population and amount of taxable property the town is the first in the county.

THE MOUND BUILDERS AND INDIANS

There are not many relics of that ancient and mysterious race, the Mound Builders. On section 2, there are several small mounds, also in section 25 in the east and section 7 in the west part of the town. At the Forks of Crow river, in section 30, the Winnebago Indians left several houses and probably had quite a village. At the mouth of Pioneer creek, in section 26, they left many houses or huts, and a stockade about 30 feet long and 20 feet wide, built of split timber 6 or 7 feet high, which is probably used as a storehouse. Although the valley of the Crow river was a favorite hunting and camping ground of the Sioux Indians, they left no traces of a permanent home, but for several years after the settlement of the town by white people, large parties of the tribe were hunting and trapping along the river and each winter camped in the town of Franklin, and to some extent the early settlers associated and traded with them in a friendly manner

THE FIRST WHITE SETTLERS

The first claim taken was by James P. Lyle of Nova Scotia; he traveled through the town prospecting, and marked a claim in section 12, now adjoining and partly in the village of Delano, on the 15th day of June, 1855, and a short time thereafter took up his residence and moved his family on the claim, and has resided on the same place to the present time. James B. White, John Ellis, James and Samuel Patten, all from Nova Scotia, came with him and took claims in the same vicinity and became actual settlers. John B. Ellis taught the first school in the town. He made a pre-emption claim in the northeast quarter of section 11, upon which the principal part of Delano is located. In 1868 he sold his claim to Breed, Atwater and Payte, the townsite company, who platted and laid out the townsite of Crow river, that year, the name of which was later changed to Delano. James B. White now resides in section 14, and is a successful farmer; he still owns the original claim. James Patten sold his claim in 1867 to W. G. Cooper, and now resides in Minneapolis, engaged in the lumber trade. Samuel Patten was killed on the 18th day of June 1873, by the accidental falling of a barn frame that he was helping to take down for James Quinn. In the spring of 1856, came Luther Walters and Volney, his son, and William Lewis from Maine; they settled in section 13, near Lyle's. David White and family, Riley Sturman, John and Luther Cunningham took claims on Crow river the same year, and still live on their old places. J. J. and C. A. White, James Murphy and several others settled in the south part of the town the same year, in the north and west, Mr. Luther, Mr. Cadwell and sons, and the Crawshaw brothers, Melville Rue, John O. Connell and others. In the spring of 1857 many settlers came. S. P. Spencer took a claim in section 1, and made a large clearing, but afterwards sold his claim to John Sherry. The same year came Lewis, Joseph, John, Phillip and Anthony Matter, and settled in sections 2 and 10. Also William Knoble, John Seibel, Conrad Marth, George Calladine, William Ziebarth, Fred. Adickes, Theodore Jaegler, James Martin and seven sons, and the land was nearly all taken.

In 1855-57 nearly all the houses or cabins were made of rough logs

with split shingles or shakes, as they were called, for roof, and a split or hewed puncheon floor, as there were no saw mills in the country and such poor roads to Minneapolis that no lumber could be hauled and but bery little was used. The first settlers established a saw mill at or near Lyle's place know as a pit saw mill, run by man power. One man would stand under the log and one above it, and thus they could saw about 200 feet of boards per day. Many of the first settlers would take turns at this saw mill, and many floors, doors and partitions in houses were made from lumber sawed at this primitive saw mill. In 1858, they had roads opened to Watertown, and also to Rockford, and obtained lumber at both these places by teams; but the roads or trails were at times so bad that the settlers had to use boats to convey lumber and to take their corn and wheat to the grist mill. During 1858 and 1859, there was much more travel and commerce by means of boats on Crow river to Watertown and Rockford than by teams. The boats in general use were Indian canoes or dugouts, and the Franklin old settlers still boast of their skill in navigating the raging Crow with a heavily loaded dug-out. During these years the settlers had rather hard times; the grasshoppers in 1856 and 1857 took nearly all the crops. And in 1858 came the hard time to get money for anything, so that in the spring of 1859, many of the settlers were in distress and talked of leaving. Many of them had nothing to live on, and a dark prospect ahead for the sale of any product or farms or anything else. Just then the advent of the ginseng buyers changed things somewhat. As Franklin was noted for an abundance of the gold producing root, money began to flow in among the settlers, clothing and other necessaries of civilized life could be more readily supplied, old debts and even land paid for, and the outlook for the old settlers began to take a cheerful aspect and plenty was in the land.

ROADS

A road was opened through the southeast part of the town from Greenwood to Watertown in 1857; also a territorial road, called the Waverly road was surveyed and opened the same year to the north part of the town. This road was much used even in the early days of this county.

For several years nearly all of the settlers in the southwestern part of the county traveled over the Waverly road. But such roads, especially in the spring, and in the rainy, wet seasons, were almost impassable, with few and poor bridges and many creeks and sloughs, it was no slight undertaking to make a journey with ox teams from Franklin to Minneapolis and return. Scarcely any horses were used or were in the country in those days. The town is not noted for good roads. Before the building of the railroad, in 1868, the country being new, and from its nature, required a gread deal of labor to make and maintain good roads; and there was lack of pride and enterprise in that direction. Since the advent of the railroad, that seems to answer for trade and to get farm products to market, and roads receive not the attention and improvement they demand, and that would necessarily be given them without the railroad. Of late however, there is a tendency towards substantial improvement in the direction which has ample room and opportunity to show itself.

POST OFFICES

In 1858 a post office was establised on the Waverly road in section 33 in the north part of the town, then a part of Rockford called Cassell. Theodore Jaegler was postmaster for seven years. He was succeeded by Wm. Ziebarth, and still later John Tuckson was postmaster. The office was supplied by the Rockford and Mooers Prairie mail route. The same year that Cassell was established, a post office was also founded in section 14 in the east part of the town, named Franklin, with David White as postmaster. This office was served by the Dayton and Watertown route. The route to Watertown, and also the Franklin post office, were discontinued in 1862. Soon after the advent of the railroad into the town in 1868, the Cassell office was discontinued and the Crow River post office established, and F. M. Hopkins appointed postmaster. In 1870 the name was changed to Delano. Mr. Hopkins removed from the town and F. B. Nichols was appointed postmaster; he held the office until his death, in 1879, and was succeeded by Mrs. M. A. Chance, who now holds the office. Delano is the only post office in the town of Franklin, and is a money order

office, with daily mails to and from Buffalo, Rockford and Watertown.

FIRST BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DEATH, ETC.

The first white child born in Franklin was Ida May Patten, daughter of James and Mary Patten, August 17, 1856.

The first marriage was that of Riley Sturman and Louisa Murphy, December 25, 1857.

The first death was that of Mary Lyle, wife of J. P. Lyle, and daughter of David White, December 1, 1858.

The first school was taught by John E. Ellis, November 1, 1858, in a shanty on the bank of Crow river just below the Mill Block in Delano.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

Franklin was a part of Rockford precinct until April 6, 1858, when the county commissioners divided the county into towns. Township No. 118, range 25, was organized into a separate town and named Newport. But as there was another town in Washington county by that name, at the meeting of the board of county supervisors on September 14,1858, the name was changed to Franklin, on petition of a majority of the voters in the town. The first town meeting was held May 11, 1858, at the house of David White, and the following named were elected town officers:

Supervisors - C. A. Wright, chairman; Wm. McKinley and Fred Addicks
Town Clerk - J. J. Wright
Assessor - J. B. White
Treasurer and Collector - J. P. Lyle
Justice of the Peace - Sam'l Sturman
Constable - Phillip Martin
Overseer of the poor - David White

At the session of the legislature in 1875, an act was passed making the North Fork of Crow river the boundary line between the towns of Franklin and Rockford; all that part of township Nol 118, of range 25, lying south of the North Fork of Crow river, being detached from Rockford and attached to the town of Franklin, subject to approval by a majority of votes of

both towns, the votes to be counted together. But as Franklin was the larger town, and all the votes cast were in favor of the measure, the submitting of the act to the votes of both towns and not to each town, was a farce, so that the measure by which a part of Rockford township became a part of Franklin in 1875, and so remains was anything but fair; it was in fact dividing a town agaist the wish of a majority of the voters in that town.

IN THE WAR OF 1861

In the beginning of the war Franklin had quite a large population, and many enlisted in the volunteer service, but a list or record of the names of the men the town furnished for the Union army is not at hand nor in existence. But when the first draft was ordered, Franklin shared the fate of many other towns, and was subject to it. At first but a few men were drafted, and it made the citizens anxious to avoid a second draft if possible. In February 1864, when the second draft was ordered the town lacked seven men and as there was still time to fill the quota, a special town meeting was called for the purpose of raising funds to offer a bounty and secure the men by voluntary enlistment and thus avoid the draft. The meeting was held at the house of Louis Kespohl, February 22, 1864; C. A. Wright was chosen chairman and E. F. Hainlin clerk. A committee was appointed to go to St. Paul and see at the enrollment bureau that the town be properly credited with all volunteers therefore furnished. E. F. Hainlin and Wm. Ziebarth were named as that committee, who were to report to the town board the number of men necessary to fill the quota. Voted also at this special meeting to issue town bonds as bounty to recruits or volunteers who would enlist to fill the required quota. At a meeting of the town board on March 3, 1864, it was resolved to issue fourteen $300 town bonds, amounting in the aggregate to $4,200, payable to recruits or volunteers who would enlist to fill the quota of the town of Franklin.

About $2,100 in such bonds were issued; and after this came a change in the administration of town affairs, and also a change in public sentiment in regard to the necessity and also the legality of the issuing of these town bonds. And as there was no disposition on the part of the town

authorities to pay them, and no provision was made for that purpose, the holders could get no pay on them, and some of them sold their bounty bonds to H. L. Gordon for a mere nominal sum. Bordon brought suit in the district court to recover and compel the town to pay them. As the bonds had run over eight years, the principal and interest amounted to quite a sum. The bond war was for a time quite exciting and parties on both sides of the question - bonds or no bonds - acted injudiciously. On the first tax levied for the bonds payment was refused by many for a long time - some with success, others finally paid it. The money squandered by delay and litigation amounted to perhaps as much as what an amicable settlement with the bond holders on their own proposition would have cost, and the actions of some of the township authorities in this matter was anything but creditable to themselves or the town. Finally on November 9, 1872, a special town meeting was called to hear a report of a committee sent to confer, and attempt to make a compromise with H. L. Gordon. It was voted that the board of supervisors employ the best legal advice and counsel and take an appeal to the supreme court and not settle with Gordon. But the second sober thought prevailed, and the town paid Gordon, first $300, and afterwards in four different and larger installments, till the whole of the debt was paid. The last payment authorized April 5, 1873, being $400, and the town was once more clear of the old bounty bond debt.

THE INDIAN SCARE

The Indian scare in 1862 sent most of the inhabitants of the town to Greenwood, Rockford and Minneapolis; hardly a person or none at all remained in the town. They did not attempt to make a stand, but many assisted in building forts at Greenwood and Rockford, so that Franklin was perhaps without an inhabitant for many days. In 1863, the temporary exodus was repeated, and the excitement, if anything was more intense on account of the certainty of the Indians being in the big woods, and a longer absence of the settlers was the result, so that all crops and all interests suffered considerably.

HOTELS

The first hotel or public house was opened in 1858, by Peter Christian, on the old Waverly territorial road in the southeast quarter of section 34 in that part of the town then a part of Rockford. The land is now owned by John Muckenhirn. It was called the "Minnesota House", and was not a large or well kept establishment. But for two or three years was the popular stopping place for many travelers and new settlers in the southwest part of the county. Peter was a jolly landlord and his establishment was quite a lively place, made so partly by Jacob Dietz's distillery which was located in the same section, about a half mile north, and was the only one ever in Wright county, except two 'moonshiners', started in 1865, on a very small scale and were short lived. Jacob Dietz ran his distillery from 1858 to 1862, when he removed to Watertown, and afterwards changed his distillery to a brewery.

On the advent of the railroad to Crow River station, now Delano, Marvel Hayford removed from Rockford to the station and opened a hotel and boarding house, October 8, 1868, but built only shanties. His establishment was located near the corner of Railroad Avenue and River Street, where the Eppel (now Bruggemann) building was afterwards built. In November 1868, Miner Ball moved a building from Greenwood, formerly used as a boarding house there, and fitted it up for a hotel; it was located where Young's hotel or a part of the same now stands. This was in fact the first hotel in town and was opened in December, 1868, by J. F. Powers, who was the landlord until October 1870. After this, Miner Ball kept the hotel about one year. In 1871, J. D. Young purchased the establishment, and for a time it was the "Avenue House", and afterwards changed to "Young's Hotel". In 1874, Mr. Young rebuilt the house, 20 by 60 and 18 by 24; but increasing business required more room, and in 1879, he built what is now the main building, 24 by 70 feet, three stories high, making an addition of 25 good rooms. It is now the largest and best kept hotel in the county.

In 1869, T. D. Shaw built what is now the "Palace Hotel", on the south side of the railroad. E. D. Barnett was the first landlord, then

T. S. Kerr; it was then the "Franklin House'. In 1872, it was sold to Daniel Atwood and was called the "Atwood House'. In 1875, I. H. Grafft purchased the property, finished the building and named it the "Palace Hotel". The house is commodious, centrally located for business, is well kept and enjoys a good patronage by the citizens and the traveling public.

STORES

The first store in the town was opened in 1866, by John Marth, on the northeast quarter of section 4, on the Waverly road. It was not a large establishment, but a good stock of groceries, dry goods and general merchandise was kept, and in connection there with a saloon. In 1871, Mr. Marth removed to Delano where he built a large store on the west side of the river and carried on quite a large business until 1878, when he removed to Barnesville, in Clay county, where he is now extensively engaged in the mercantile business. In August 1868, William Wasson opened a small store in J. P. Lyle's old log house in the south part of Delano; he had but a small room and a small stock of goods. About this time J. K. Langford made his appearance in town as temporary clerk for Wasson. William tried to get a post office established and hinself appointed postmaster, but failing in the attempt, got discouraged and folded his tent and left the place. In December 1868, Frank Hopkins opened a general store on Railroad Avenue east of the hotel; he was the first postmaster in Delano and continued in business about two years. F. B. Nichols built what is now the Wright County Bank in the winter of 1868 to 1869, and opened a general store; he was the second postmaster. He sold the building and stock of goods to Row Brasie in 1873. In 1869, Eppel Bros. erected the building on the corner of Railroad Avenue and River Street and in the fall of that year opened a large general store, and in connection therewith a saloon. In 1871, they dissolved partnership, Valentine Eppel continuing the business at the old place till 1875, and Charles Eppel purchased a building and removed it from the south side of the railroad to his present location on the corner of Bridge and River Streets, where he has, since 1871, continued and greatly enlarged his business, carrying on one of the largest

and most successful mercantile businesses in town. John Borsch also opened a general store in 1869 on corner of Bridge and River Streets, sold out to J. M. Eppler in 1879, and built a large new store on corner of Franklin Avenue and River Street, where he continues in business. Louis Rausch built and opened a general store in 1874, and besides this is lessee and manager of the old grain house, doing a good business in the wheat market. John Haffner is the oldest hardware merchant in town; in the early days of Delano managing business for Lucas Bros., and afterwards purchased their stock, and in 1879, built a large store on lower River Street where he is now conducting a prosperous business. J. W. Lindsley, the other hardware man, made his advent to this town early in 1880, and has a large and complete stock of hardware and tinware and conducts a prosperous business. John Coolen removed to this town from Buffalo in the latter part of 1875, and engaged in the furniture and lumber trade, erected two large store buildings, and in the latter part of 1881, sold furniture stock to Andrew Hansemann. Coolen has now by far the best lumber yard in the county. In the early part of 1882, E. F. Ziebarth also engaged in the lumber trade and has in course of construction a large store building on lower River Street. Almost every branch of mercantile business is represented in town. Agricultural machinery by F. A. Flood, Two good drug stores, one by Mrs. M. A. Chance, and the other by Johnson & Wittman. Two shoe stores by Olof Peterson and A. Andersen. Two millinery establishments by Mrs. Siler and Mulford, and Miss O'Leary. Watches and Jewelry by J. Lohmiller. W. Johns, and S. J. Reeves, groceries, confections and general merchandise.

Although the manufacturing interests are not nearly developed and present excellent chances for extensive business, the town has three good blacksmith and wagon shops, harness shop, boot and shoe makers, tailor shop, photograph and art gallery, feed store, two butcher shops, barber shop, and at this writing six saloons.

MILLS

In 1869, Miner Ball and E. D. Barnett built a steam saw and grist mill at Delano, partly with funds loaned or advanced by the townsite

proprietors, and for several years the mill did a thriving business. In 1871, Mr. Barnett sold out his interest in the mill to Mr. Ball. In 1874, Mr. Ball sold the grist mill to Geo. F. Walker. Mr. Walker built a dam a short distance above the railroad bridge, some forty rods from the mill and attempted to utilize the water power, which is considerable at this place, by a wire rope from the dam to the grist mill; but the dam was not substantial, the water power proved a failure and Mr. Walker did not succeed. The mill was sold under sheriff sale and afterwards again came into Miner Ball's possession. He then sold it to Richard Ball, and again bought it and sold it to Harrington, and it is now owned by Mr. Heasley. The flouring mill for a number of years was no success, but under its present management is now gaining favor and a good reputation. In 1880, the saw mill burned down, but was soon rebuilt by Miner Ball, assisted by voluntary contribution from citizens.

CHURCHES

In 1860, a church building was put up and a cemetery laid out on the southeast quarter of section 33, town 119, range 24, then a part of Rockford township. The land was purchased of Theodore Jaegler. But the congregation or church society was not organized until April 13, 1868, under the title of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cassel.

A German Methodist church was organized about the same time and a house built on the southwest corner of the same section, with a burying ground near the church. John Seibel, Walter Albitz and Gotlieb Epple were the leaders in the organization.

The Methodis Episcopal Church of Delano was organized March 20, 1869, Rev. Alfred Cressey was the first pastor. The principal members of the society when organized were J. F. Powers, W. H. Landis, Miner Ball, Luther Walter, Wm. Hawker and others. The church was erected on Third Street, Delano, in 1874, and is a neatly finished building. They have services regularly, Rev. Mr. Hackett is the present pastor, and the society is in a prosperous condition, with an organized union Sabbath school.

A Presbyterian church was organized April 4, 1869, under the name and title of the First Presbyterian Church of Franklin, The first minister

was Rev. John Buck. Rev.'s Lyons and J. H. Hunter assisted at the organization. Prominent among the first members were David White, Rebecca White, F. B. Nichols, Joseph Van Eman, Mary Van Eman, Mrs. Carpenter, John Hunter, Anna M. and Emma C. Lyle and others. David White and Joseph Van Eman were elected ruling elders. Octover 4, 1869, Rev. Chas. Thayer was called to the pastorate. A church was built on Fourth Street, Delano, and dedicated November 4, 1871. The congregation is small, but maintains itself, Rev. Mr. Williams of Long Lake, holds services at regular intervals.

The German Evangelical Society of Delano have a neat church building on the west side of the river on Bridge Street, which cost about $1,200, built in 1880. Prominent in the organization and building of the church was J. M. Eppler and others. Wm. Ziebarth, Theodore D. Strauch and Gotlieb Rothe are the board of trustees. Rev. J. Lange is the pastor.

In the fall of 1858, Rev. Demetrius Morogna of St. Paul, held the first Catholic divine service in the house of Mathias Schaust in the southwest quarter of section 34, town 119, range 25, then a part of Rockford township. Services were held at this place more or less regularly by Rev.'s Magnus and Gregory Koering of St. Michael, until the small log church was built near the northeast corner of section 10, about a mile west of Delano. On March 18, 1866, the first service was held in the church, and thereafter until 1874 when the church was built in Delano, on corner of River and Rockford Streets, on the south side of the railroad, on a lot donated for that purpose by S. S. Breed from the townsite proprietors. Rev.'s Anton Capser and Steinacker were the pastors for a while. On September 11, 1875, Rev. Damasus Socha, the present pastor arrived and has since been in charge. In 1878, the church or congregation was incorporated in accordance with the laws of the state under the name and title of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church of Delano. It was one of the first Catholic congregations incorporated under the state law. The congregation now numbers 97 Polish families or households, 60 German, and 4 Irosh - total 161. The German and the Irish families are the main support. The church is now altogether too small and will either have to be enlarged or there must be a division of the congregation. In the latter case, the Polish portion will probably organize and build a church in the west part of the town of Franklin.

SOCIETIES

Washington Grove No. 9, U.A.O.D. (United Ancient Order of Druids) was organized in the early part of 1875. Geo. A. Hoffman, J. D. Young, John Marth, Jacob Hurtz, J. Alley, Geo. F. Walker, Conrad Stein and several others were among the first and prominent members. For several years the Grove held its meetings in Marth's Hall on the west side of Delano; thereafter at Young's Hall, and now in the hall over Peter's store. In 1880, the Grand Grove of the Order in this state held its annual meeting and election of officers in Delano.

Centennial Lodge No. 127, A.F. & A.M. (Ancient Free and Accepted Masons) was organized in June 1876, with F.S. Swart, W.M. and W.L. VanEman, S.W. and G.T. Mulford, J.W.; Miner Ball, Sec'y; Louis Rausen, Treas.; Jerome Ball, S.D. John Sherry, J.D. ; Chil. Martin, Tyler; Wm. Lewis, Steward. They met in what was known as Lucas' Hall and worked under dispensation until June 10, 1877, when they received their charter. With other kindred societies, they have rented and fitted up a fine hall, the largest in the county, in Peters' block, Delano.

Delano Lodge No. 80, I.O.O.F. (Independent ORder of Odd Fellows) was organized April 18, 1881. A.Y. Eaton, J. C. Monroe, H. Jarrett, D.M. Freeman, T. S. Kerr, F. A. Flood, J. P. Lyle and others being prominent members. They meet in the same hall as the Masons and Druids, in Peters' block.

Delano has also had a lodge of Templars, and a Division of the Sons of Temperance, but they have both passed away; as also has the Big Woods Grange which in time past for a while existed and flourished in the town of Franklin.

EPIDEMICS

On June 7, 1872, M. Ball reported to the town board of supervisors that there was a supposed case of smallpox at the house of J.F. Baumann in section 9. Dr. C. B. Ames was ordered by the supervisors as a board of health to examine into the matter and report as soon as possible. He reported that there were several cases of smallpox. The board hereupon

ordered red flags put up on the houses of J. F. Baumann, Andreas Oehrlein and Louis Kunkel, and these dwellings were quarantined, the roads closed, no one was allowed to go to either of these places and no one allowed to leave the houses so quarantined. The boards of health of Rockford and other towns were notified of the existence of smallpox cases. The house of J. F. Baumann was made a hospital, and Peter M. Wright was appointed superintendent. New cases of smallpox were reported almost daily, and the excitement kept the doctors busy at vaccination, proving quite a harvest for them for three or four weeks. The disease was reported in the family of Louis Kespohl, but on investigation by others than the superintendent and attending physician, it proved to be nothing but a case of measles, and the smallpox excitement subsided. One person died, and probably there was but one case of varioloid. But the physician and the superintendent of the hospital cost the town the modest little sum of $264.

THE VILLAGE OF DELANO

The Main Line, First Division St. Paul & Pacific Railroad (now Breckenridge Division St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad) was completed to Crow river, and trains were first run to this place on the 8th day of October, 1868. About this time Messrs. Breed, Atwater & Payter, all railroad men or connected with the R. R. Co. , had purchased of John E. Ellis nearly eighty acres of land at the railroad crossing of the river, and together with other lands owned or secured by them and W. B. Litchfield laid out, surveyed and platted a townsite, parts of sections 11 and 12, town 118, range 25, and named it "Crow River", and when the post office was established a few weeks afterwards it received the same name. But the name did not suit many of the citizens nor some of the railroad men, and during the next winter after several meetings had been held and many names suggested, it was finally agreed to name the new and prosperous town, "Delano", in honor of F. R. Delano, the then active and enterprising superintendent of the railroad. A special law was passed by the legislature of 1870 authorizing or legalizing this change. About the same time the name of the post office was also changed from Crow River to Delano.

On February 11, 1876, by an act of the state legislature, the village

of Delano was incorporated, comprising the following territory, viz: SE¼ of NE¼ and E½ of SE¼ section 11, and SW¼ of SW¼ of NW¼ and W½ of SW¼ section 12, town 118 range 25 being 240 acres, W. H. Landis, G. T. Mulford and Miner Ball were names as commissioners to give notice of the village election which was held in the house of E. J. Swedeback on February 19, 1876, and the following named persons were elected village officers:

President - George F. Walker
Trustees - Row Brasie, Jacob Kurtz, A. Anderson
Recorder - Fred. Brandes
Treasurer - Geo. P. Schaffer
Justice of the Peace - L. H. Rawson
Constable - Swan Erickson

By an act of the legislature of 1880, the village charter was amended so that it now embraces the S½ of NE¼, and the SE¼ of section 11, the SW¼ of NW¼, and the W½ of SW¼ of section 12, and N½ of NE¼ of section 14, all in town 118, range 25, being 440 acres. The population according to census of 1880, was 407; it is now between 600 and 700.

The railroad passes through the center of the village. It is surrounded by a good farming country, originally timber. Quite a large tract of tributary to Delano, and the local trade and traffic is extensive. It is the principal railroad town in the county, with round-house tanks and car supplies. A good wheat market and stores and shops of nearly all kinds. The first bank established in the county, The Wright County Bank, is located here. The village has two organized fire companies, the Delano Hook & Ladder Co., the oldest and first organized fire company in the county, and the Empire Engine & Hose Co. Both companies have each a good outfit of fire apparatus, the property of the village, and hold regular meetings for drill and business. The village government is liberal, and the people enterprising. Streets are kept in good order, and sidewalks, shade trees and street lamps contribute to the public comfort and well being of the town. Four churches and two school houses are evidences of public enterprise, and the town is now arranging to build a $600 school house, to be completed and opened for school the coming fall. The school board are O. Erwig, John Sherry and I. Gutzwiller Jr.

BRIDGES

The first bridge over South Fork of Crow river was built in 1859, near William McKinley's about forty rods above what is now called McKinley bridge. It was built without assistance from the town or county, by voluntary work and individual subscription, and was covered with poles instead of plank, but answered all purposes for six or eight years. The next bridge was built in 1868, at the village of Delano, the county paying $150, and the town proprietors about the same; the rest of the expenses was paid by the township. In 1879, the bridge was rebuilt entirely new, at a cost of about $1,300, the town paying $900, and the county $400. In 1882, it was repaired and replanked at a cost of about $230, of which the township pays $100; the balance by voluntary work and individual contributions; William McKinley and John Sherry being the principal movers and contributors in work. The bridge over the North Fork of Crow river, known as the Ruckoldt bridge, as also the Samsell bridge over the same stream, being on the line between the towns of Franklin and Rockford, were built and kept in repair by these towns with some assistance from the county. Several well constructed and substantial bridges over creeks have been built and are kept in repair by the town. There are a large number of bridges in this town, or will be, than in any other town in the county.

SCHOOLS

The town of Franklin, and especially the village of Delano, is noted for having good schools. The first settlers built school houses and started schools without waiting to assess and collect taxes for that purpose, and a majority of the inhabitants, especially the early settlers, take an interest in educational matters.

When the village of Delano was founded the old school house that stood on the present mill block, near where Ball's concrete store now stands, had soon to give way to the present two story frame building, 26 x 40 feet, built in 1870. at a cost of about $2,000, standing on the

corner of Elm and Second Streets. That is now insufficient to accommodate the increased and still rapidly increasing young population, and during the summer of 1882, that will give way to a new and substantial school building at a cost of about $6,000 to $7,000, with four departments, capable of accommodating in all from 200 to 300 pupils. The six school districts in the township, including Delano, have good school houses, and schools from four to nine months in the year.

Besides the public schools, there is a well conducted German and English parochial school in connection with the Catholic church in Delano, with school during the greater part of the year, this school has a good attendance by children of Catholic families in and about the village; some non-Catholic parents also sending their children to this school. The tuition charges are moderate.

SOLDIERS IN THE WAR OF 1861

So far as records show, or can be ascertained, following is a list of enrolled soldiers and the organizations to which they belonged in the way of the Rebellion:

Jacob Geiger,	Co.	E.	5th	Regiment
Cramer Swartout,	Co.	A.	9th	"
James L. Martin,	Co.	B.	9th	"
John Robertson,	"	"	"	"
Frank Sutton,	"	"	"	"
Judson Welker,	"	"	"	"
Thomas Bernick,	Co.	A	Hatch's	Bat'n
Jacob Houser,	"	"	"	"
Louis Kunkel,	"	"	"	"
Malcom Anderson,	"	"	"	"
John Patten,	"	"	"	"
Theo. D. Strauch,	"	"	"	"
James Quinn,	Co.	M.	Mounted	Rangers
James Patten,	"	"	"	"
John E. Ellis,	"	"	"	"
Thos. Sturman,	"	"	"	"
L. Cunningham,	"	"	"	"

John Droddy, Co. M. Mounted Rangers
Phillip Matter, Co. C. " "
R. a. Streeter, " " " "
Thos. R. Sturman, Co. B. 2nd Cavalry
A.J. Cates, " " " "
S. S. Sturman, " " " "
Wm. Reardon, Co. C. Hatch's Bat'n.
Samuel Murphy, " " " "
John Wineo, " " " "
Jno. Cunningham, " " " "

There are many others, citizens and residents of this town, who enlisted and served in the Union Army in the way of 1861-1865, of whose names and the organizations to which they belonged, the writer has no authentic record, or no record at all. Any correction or omission in the above list when noted by men, or their friends and relations should and will be supplied when the necessary information is furnished.

NEWSPAPER AND PRINTING OFFICE

About the first of March, 1872, H. A. Ball and Daniel Fish, under the firm name of Ball and Fish, issued a circular of prospectus, announcing their intention soon to publish a weekly county newspaper at Delano, and on the 29th of March, 1872, the first number of "The Big-Woods Citizen", a neat and spicy six column folio was issued and given to the publc. Mr. Fish was the editor, and Dan Merritt the printer. Messrs. Ball and Fish continued the publication until about August 20, 1872, when they sold the paper and material of the office to Gutzwiller, Landis, Eppel and others, who soon thereafter organized and formed "The Eagle Printing Company". Mr. E. H. Farnham took editorial charge. On the 27th of September, 1872, the paper appeared for the first time under the new name, "The Wright County Eagle", enlarged to a seven column folio. E. H. Farnham had editiorial charge until Feb. 7, 1873, when J. B. Wiggin followed him, who remained until superseded by Frank Matchett, April 4, 1873, and who had editorial charge until March 15, 1877. Since then, the paper and printing office is owned and controlled wholly by I. Gutzwiller Jr.

Publishing a newspaper in a small country town like Delano, in the stringent times of 1872, was up-hill work, and financially the "Big-Woods Citizen" was not a success. Mr. E. M. Wilson, then a candidate for presidential elector on the Greeley ticket, volunteered to advance the money, $600, on a note signed by Geo. A. Hoffman, P. M. Wright, W. H. Landis, Chas. Eppel, Valentine Eppel and I. Gutzwiller Jr., for the purchase of the office, and the politics of the paper were changed from Republican to Democratic. The EAGLE Printing Company did not flourish long, but little stock was taken and but little of what was taken was paid up, so that even before the Wilson note became due the Company was practically dead. I. Gutzwiller Jr. paid the Wilson note, &c., $690, in the fall of 1873, and himself and Frank Matchett assumed and paid what stock was issued and not forfeited, and other liabilities of the Company, and thus became the owners of the office. They added new material, including a cylinder job press, the first in the county, to the office, for general job printing business. In March, 1876, another and larger job press and more material was added and the efficiency of the office much augmented.

In March, 1877, Mr. Matchett sold his interest in the office to I. Gutzwiller Jr., who thus became sole owner of the business, and the following year the old rickety Hoe press, one of the first newspaper presses that was in use in the state and territory of Minnesota, was sold and replaced by a new Washington hand press. In June, 1881, this was replaced by a Prouty Power Press, and on September 15th, the paper was enlarged to an eight column folio, and the name changed to "Delano Eagle". The paper and business has continually improved. From a circulation of a little over 200 in the summer of 1872, it has gone up to 1,300; and the business of the job printing department has increased in even better proportion, so that the EAGLE has become a permanent business, and, as has been said, one of the indespensable institutions of the town.

BANKS

In August, 1880, Mr. C. M. Dittman of Farmington, and Mr. C. G. Rooser of St. Paul, visited Delano and other places in Wright and McLeod

counties, with a view to engage in the banking business. They finally settled on Delano, bought the Brasie building and lots, and on October 1, 1880, opened the Wright County Bank, and since then have continued in the banking business under the firm name of Dittman & Roosen. From its start the bank has continually increased in business and is a fixed and reliable institution, Mr. Roosen being the resident proprietor and manager of the business. The Wright County Bank is the authorized depository of county funds and is under bonds to the county for that purpose to the amount of $400.00.

GRAIN HOUSES

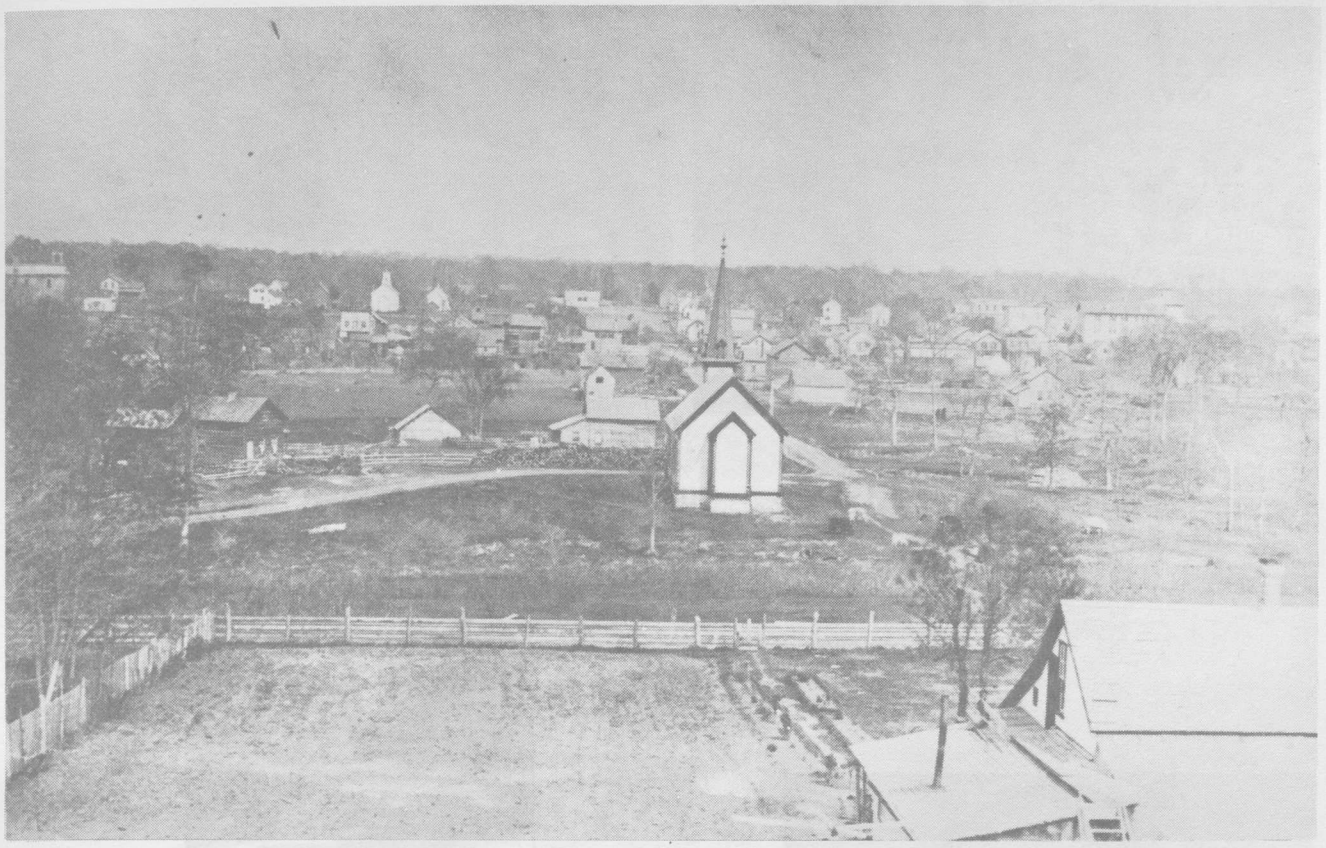
The old grain house with a capacity of about 8,000 bushels, was built soon after Delano was founded, and belonged to the Davidson elevators until within a few years when it was bought by W. H. Landis. It is now leased to and managed by Louis Rausch. The grain handled must be some 40,000 bushels during the year.

On May 5, 1881, the Delano Elevator Company was organized with an authorized capital stock of $10,000, and immediately thereafter the new elevator was built, with a capacity of 32,000 bushels. The officers are: President - I. Gutzwiller Jr., Secretary and Treasurer - C. G. Roosen, Trustees - John Coolen, Chas. Eppel and John Haffner.

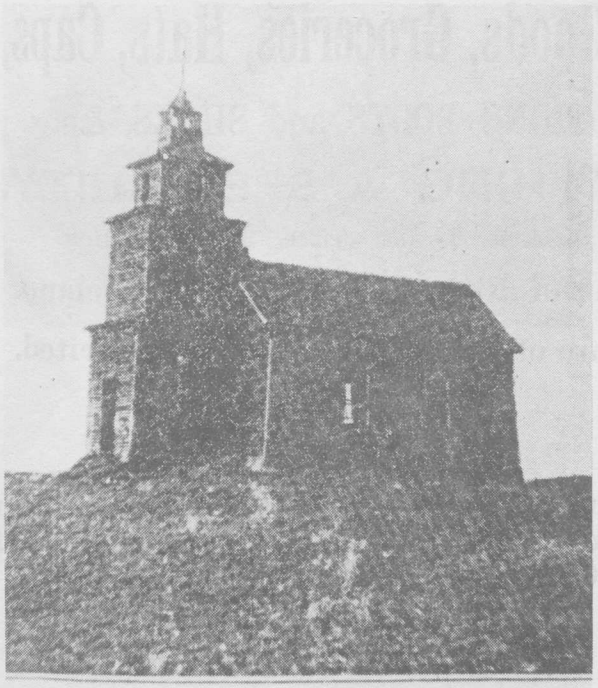
The grain handled by the two houses during the year must be over 100,000 bushels.

POPULATION, TOWN OF FRANKLIN

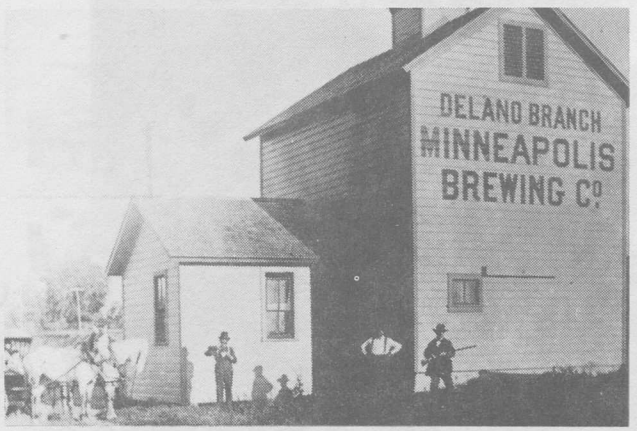
U. S. census, 1860	353
State census, 1865	489
U. S. census, 1870	797
State census, 1875	1,692
U. S. census, 1880	2,005



View of Delano in 1880. The Church of Christ is in the foreground.



IRST ST. PETER'S CHURCH 1865





Delano's Gilmer Hotel.



VALENTIN EPPEL,
Delano

THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED IN THE VILLAGE.



CHARLES EPPEL,

—DEALER IN

Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps,

NOTIONS, BOOTS and SHOES, &c.

CLOTHING A SPECIALITY.

Good Goods. Lowest Prices. Square Dealing.

Corner of River and Bridge Sts., Delano.

A share of the public patronage solicited.

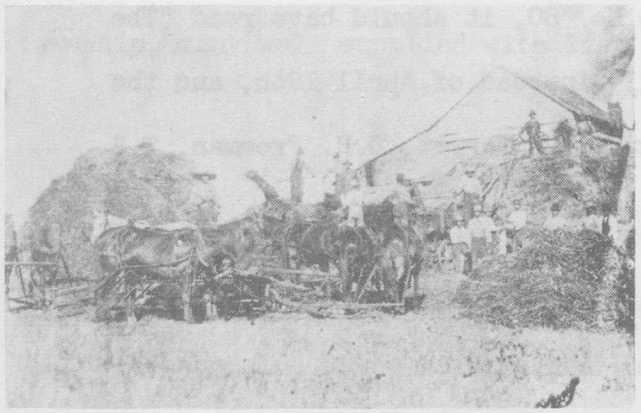
Valentine Eppel who, with his brother Charles, built the above store building in 1869.



Andrew John Rieder homestead in Franklin Township.



Riley Sturman.



Horse-powered threshing rigs used in Franklin Township.



HISTORICAL ERRATA

June 1, 1882

A son of the late Mr. F.J. Baumann brings to our notice some facts which, although not conflicting directly with Wright county's historian, show that possibly a wrong view of the facts was taken, and we hasten to correct, if indeed a correction be neccessary. The history of the small-pox scare of 1872, states that the disease was first reported in the house of F.J. Baumann; this undoubtly true; but it did not originate here. The disease was brought here by Andreas Oehrlein from St. Paul, who had been under medical treatment at the place, and who brought medicine home; his being afflicted with the plague was not generally known until Mr. Baumann, who had been called to assist the sick man was himself stricken down. Oehrlein came from St. Paul about May 20, 1872 and on June 7th Mr. Baumann died.

In the history of the I.O.O.F. lodge No. 80, it should have read "The lodge was organized on February 28th, 1881," instead of April 18th, and the charter members were, A.Y. Eaton, J.C. Monroe, H. Jarret, D.H. Freeman, T.S. Kerr, and J.P. Lyle.

TOWN OF FRENCH LAKE

French Lake is in the northwest part of the county, township No. 120, range No. 28. It is bounded on the north by Southside, on the east by Albion, on the south by Cokato, and on the west by Meeker County. The township was originally all timber land; the surface, in the west and northwest, is somewhat broken and hilly, while in the south and east it is generally level. The town is well watered by its numerous lakes and by the north fork of Crow River, which enters the town in section 30 and by a very tortuous course manages to visit 15 different sections before making its exit through section 35. Among the larger lakes are Hutchin's lake in section 6 and 7, and French lake in sections 11, 12 and 14; the former covering an area of about 500 acres, the latter 450. Besides these there are 12 smaller lakes scattered throughout the township, many well supplied with fish.

FIRST SETTLERS

The first actual settler in the town was Ernest Howard, a native of Belgium, who came to the United States in 1852, and settled in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where he remained four years. He came to Minnesota to live in 1856, but his settlement in French Lake was purely an accident. During the early spring of '56, a territorial road had been surveyed from Monticello to Forest City in Meeker county, the pioneer town on the big prairie, and during the following summer many new settlers wended their way through the big woods to the prairie, crossing French Lake on their journey, but none stopped there. On the 10th day of October, 1856, Mr. Howard with his family, started with a hired team from Monticello

for Forest City, and in the evening the wagon broke down on section 15; the hired team returned to Monticello, leaving the luckless travelers alone in the timber without shelter and with very little food. To add to the calamitous situation, a snow storm set in the next day, and Mr. Howard was forced to build a small log cabin for shelter. As the expected team did not arrive, he concluded to winter there, and resume his westward march in the spring; but the snows of 25 winters have fallen and Mr. Howard still continues to occupy the same place - the southwest quarter of section 15. He is now 78 years of age, and with his son, John Howard, the first white child born in the town, is working a good farm. Being almost destitute at the time of settlement, the family had hard times, and were in rather straightened circumstances for three or four years, until the advent of the ginseng buyers, when that profitable industry enabled them to pay for their land and see better times. In the winter of 1856 - 7 several persons settled in the town; Casimir Brasseur moved here from Canada, and in March, 1857, was married to Miss Genevieve, daughter of Ernest Howard. Of course, this was the first marriage, as they were then the only marriageable persons in the town. In April, 1857, Andrew, Daniel and George McDonald came from Nova Scotia and settled, Andrew taking a claim on the northeast quarter of section 24, and Daniel on the northwest quarter of the same section, where they still reside and have two of the nicest farms in the town. George McDonald took a claim adjoining Andrew's, on the southeast quarter of section 13, and in 1864, sold this farm to Charles Chevalier, returning to Nova Scotia to have an operation performed on his eyes, and died soon afterwards. St. Ignatius Catholic church is built on the farm formerly owned by George McDonald. In the spring of 1858, came M. C. O'Donahue and Thos.

O'Loughlin, who settled on section 10, where they now reside; they were the pioneers of a large number of Irish families who soon followed. In point of number, the O'Loughlin families take the precedence, there being no less than six different families of that name. Thomas O'Loughlin was postmaster for several years, and has generally held some important town offices. M. C. O'Donahue has been chairman of the board of supervisors, and justice of the peace most of the time since the organization of the town and has served the county as commissioner three years. They are both good farmers and enterprising, useful citizens. John Charles, P. Girard and several others, Belgians, Frenchmen and Canadians, came to the town in 1859 and 1860. A large majority of the early settlers were Irish or Belgians, with a sprinkling of the other nationalities, but the Swedes, Norwegians and Fins have taken possession of the southwest part of the town and are nearly a majority. But very few Americans now reside in town; Owen Groves, Francis B. Ide and Franklin Guinn in section 34, A. D. Kingsley in section 22 and S. B. Hutchins in section 6, are nearly all of the native American settlers. The town was settled very slowly until about 1870, on account of the long distance from any market. Farming, except in as much as it embraced stock raising, was poor business. On the opening of the St. P. M. & M. R. R. through the town south of French Lake, an impetus was given to the town and as the railroad brought markets for farm produce, the land was quickly settled. The Scandinavians in the west and south have made wonderful progress; they have small farms but they are well cultivated; nearly every foot of land is utilized, and all seem to be prosperous and happy.

TOWN SITES

In the winter of '56 or the early spring of '57, Mr. Sidney Shaw of Machias, Maine, and Mr. Henry Averill of Lewisville laid out a town on the southeast quarter or the south half of section 14. It was first called Twin Lakes, the name which the government surveyor had given to the lakes in that section; but during the summer of 1857, the town was surveyed and platted, 320 acres, and named Portland; as that was the year of townsite and paper city speculations, many shares and lots were sold and exchanged for other city lots and shares, and many of the old settlers who made a business of dealing in city property years ago, will find in looking over old papers lots and shares in the city of Portland, the city was charmingly located, (on the plats, of course) graced with churches, hotels, school houses, railroads, mills and everything beautiful. The town proprietors erected quite a large building, which was called a hotel, and used for that purpose nearly two years, Mr. James Curtis of Maine, acting as landlord. As was expected, the crash came in '50, the law requiring certain substantial improvements on land before it could be entered at the land office as a townsite, and Portland, in default of these like many another paper town, went by the board. Shaw and Averill, it is true, talked about steam mills, water power, stores and imaginary mills that never came; the hotel got starved out, the landlord left, and in the spring of 1859, Mrs. Hannah O'Loughlin, widow, journeyed this way from Missouri in search of a claim, and learning the facts in the case, jumped the townsite, pre-empted the same, and the city of Portland existed only in History. The original claim of about 140 acres of land is now owned by her heirs, and is the nicest piece of farm land in the town, beautifully

situated between the two lakes, and well under cultivation. In 1881, John Charles put up quite a large building on the southeast quarter of section 15, about the center of the town, where he has a saloon and hotel. Jas. W. Connole and P. B. O'Loughlin built a store in the same year, near Charles' property, and have since been doing a good business. They are both young men and energetic workers, ready at any moment to exchange the pen and account book for the plow, and being natives of the soil, are well up in good farming. The post office is kept in Connole & O'Loughlin's store, Mr. O'Loughlin having been for several years the efficient post master.

TOWN ORGANIZATION

On the 6th of April, 1858, when the board of county commissioners divided the county into towns, and the town of Albion was organized, it included the present town of French Lake. On the 9th day of June, 1865, on petition of about 30 legal voters, township 120, range 28, was set off by the commissioners from Albion, and named French Lake. The first town meeting was held on July 7th, '65, at the house of Mrs. Hannah O'Loughlin, on section 14, and the following persons were elected town officers:

Michael O'Shea	chairman
Patrick Kennedy,	
Michael O'Loughlin	supervisors
M. L. O'Loughlin	town clerk
Michael O'Loughlin	treasurer
M. C. O'Donahue,	
M. L. O'Loughlin	justice of the peace

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The first road laid out in the town was the Monticello and Forest City road, in the winter of 1856, running east and west through the town. Several roads running north and south have been established since that time, and are worked by the citizens; they are as good as those of any of the interior towns. The crooked meandering of the Crow River through twenty-five miles of the town will require many bridges; three have already been built; the first one in 1873, where the old Cokato road crosses the river on section 27, costing $450. This bridge was built by the state and county - $300 being furnished by the former and $150 by the latter. It is sadly in need of repairs or rebuilding. The next bridge was built in 1879, on section 29, by A. D. Kingsley, the county and town assisting, and the town of Cokato paying a part of the expenses. The cost of the bridge was about $350, and it is a good substantial structure. The other bridge, and the best of the three was also built by A. D. Kingsley in the spring of 1882. It is a pile bridge, well built and durable; the cost, $ 435, being liquidated by an appropriation from the county of $250, the remainder by subscriptions from interested individuals. Besides these bridges there are several smaller ones over streams, and in future years, the bridges to be built and kept in repair will be quite a tax on the inhabitants, but thus far they have been very liberal in the matter of roads and bridges.

MILLS

There is but one mill in the town, though there may be several good water powers yet to be utilized. In the spring of 1879, A. D. Kings-

ley purchased of John Charles 17 acres in the northwest quarter of section 22, near the bridge on Cokato road, and commenced to build a dam and saw mill. His mill site and water- power is the most available and easiest managed of any in the county; the saw mill is doing a good business in a small way, and arrangements are beling made for the erection of a flouring mill. Mr. Kingsley is an experienced miller, having put in operation the mills at Old Waverly, of which he was the proprietor for several years, selling out to C. W. Bonniewell.

SCHOOLS

The first school taught in town was by Peter McCormick in 1861; the first school house was built in 1863. There are five school districts, three frame school buildings, and one log school house, one district having been recently organized. In districts 64 and 68, school is kept from 7 to 9 months in the year, and the attendance is very good. Nearly all the citizens of the central and eastern part of the town are Catholics, but their religion does not bias them in the least as regards public schools, in which they take a lively interest, both in the building and repair, as well as providing first class teachers.

CHURCHES

At a very early period in the settlement of the town, services were held by Catholic missionaries at the house of Mrs. H. O'Loughlin, and at other places. In 1873, St. Ignatius' Church was organized, and Rev. I. Schaller became the pastor. In 1874, the church building was commenced, and finished in 1875. It is located on the southeast quarter of section thirteen, on land purchased of Mr. Chas. Chevalier. The

building is 30 x 40, and a very fine structure, well finished and furnished, and is a credit to any town or people. Father Schaller remained the pastor until 1881, when he was succeeded by Father Roberts, who is now the spiritual head of this branch of the great mother church. The congregation and attendance is very large and prosperous; they have fine grounds adjoining the church land, which are used for a cemetery.

The Scandinavians in the south and west part of the town are nearly all Lutherans, and have built a large church on the town line, in the south part of the town. It was erected in 1881; the first service was held in the new church on Christmas of the same year. The attendance is quite large and the society prosperous.

POST OFFICES

In 1859, a post office was established and named French Lake. Michael O'Loughlin was appointed postmaster. The office was supplied until 1870 by the Monticello and Forest City mail route. Michael O'Loughlin resigned in 1868, and Martin O'Loughlin was appointed to fill the position. A new mail route was established in 1870, called the Rockford and French Lake route. This route was discontinued in 1874, and the office itself discontinued the same year. A new office was established called Normand, and Chas. Chevalier was appointed postmaster, but the establishment was short lived and when, the next year, a mail route was established from Cokato to Fair Haven, through the town, the French Lake office was reinstated, and Thomas O'Loughlin appointed postmaster, being succeeded by P. B. O'Loughlin, the present P. M. and a son of the first postmaster, Michael O'Loughlin, since dead. The office is kept at the store of Connole and O'Loughlin, at the corner (commonly known as Charleston) and is supplied

by a weekly mail from Smith Lake.

GINSENG

The settlers were much benefited by the ginseng trade of 1860-61, many persons had left the town in 1859, and the early part of 1860, because the prospects were not good for holding their land, without money to pay for it, but when the ginseng business started many returned, and all who were in actual want went to work, digging the root, paid for their farms, and had plenty.

THE INDIAN WAR

Like all other interior towns, French Lake was depopulated in Aug. 1862, and July 1863; most of the settlers went to Monticello, but some went to the cities and never returned. A few men stopped in the town, most of the time dodging from one point to another; sometimes in French Lake, and sometimes in Albion at the Holmes Brothers', which was a sort of rendez-vous during the troubled time. The settlers returned after many days to find their crops ruined and some of their cattle strayed or stolen.

FIRST BIRTH

John Howard, son of Ernest Howard, the first settler, was the first child born in the town, October 10, 1858. The first marriage was that of Casimir Brasseur and Genevieve Howard, March 15, 1857. The first death, John Kean, died January 10, 1862, and was buried in St. Michaels cemetery, Frankfort. The oldest person known in the county came from Quebec, Canada, in 1864, and died June 9, 1879, at the advanced age of 113 years. His name

was Joseph Perron, and he was the father of 18 children.

French Lake was well represented in the army during the great rebellion, but as the town was not organized at that time, the records are so mixed up with other towns, that due credit cannot be given to the patriots who helped to save the Union.

CROP STATISTICS

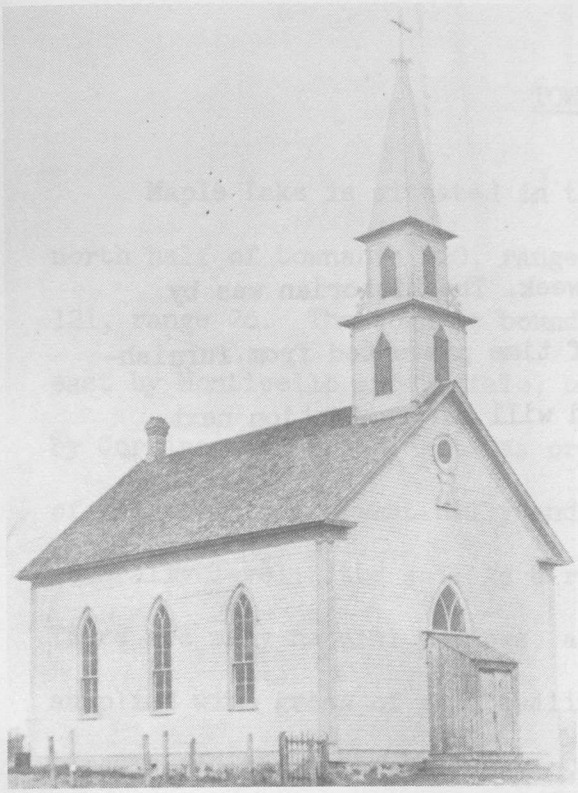
The agricultural report of 1881 shows that French Lake had:

Wheat, 569 acres; Oats, 94 acres; Corn, 302 acres; Barley, 2 acres; Potatoes, 12 acres; Beans, 3 acres; Sugar Cane, 17 acres; Cultivated Hay, 56 acres; Other Products, 8 acres; Total Acreage, 961 acres.

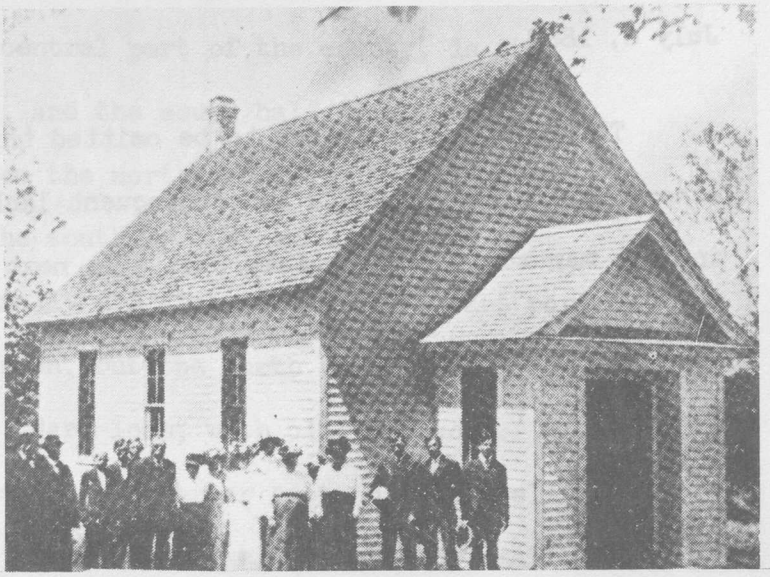
Apple trees growing, 437; Apple trees bearing, 226; Grape vines, 8; Maple syrup, 101 gallons; Maple sugar, 44 lbs.; Milch cows, 82; Sheep, 42; Hogs, 67; Horses, 34; Beef cattle, 37; Farms, 54; New farms, 6.

POPULATION

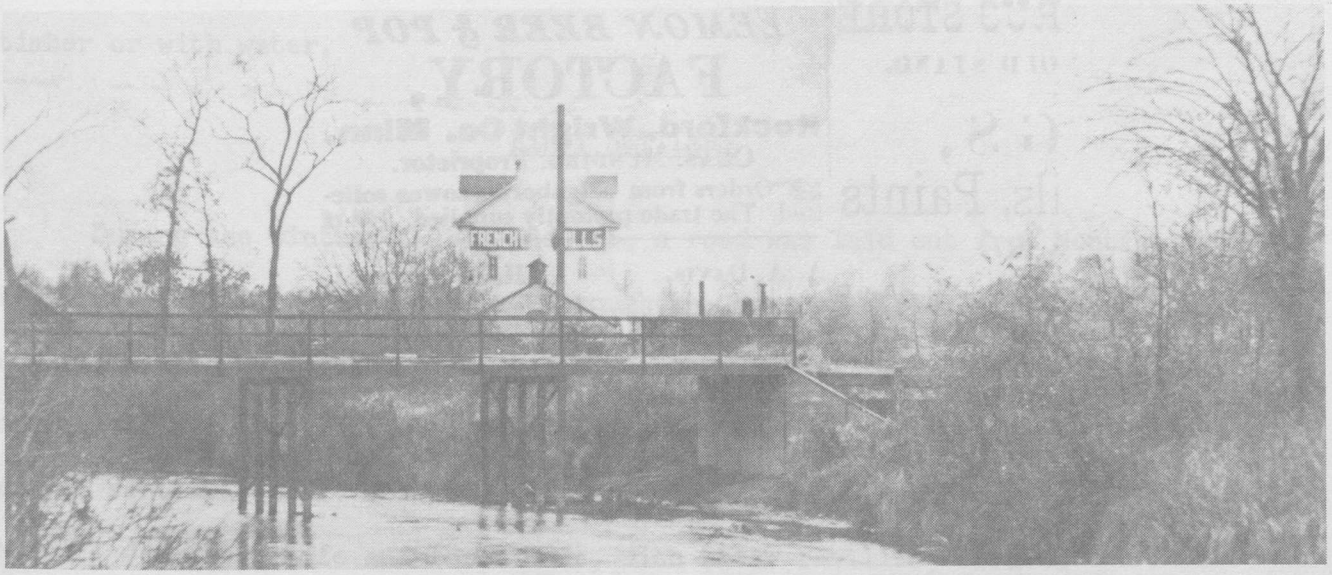
1865, 91; 1870, 221; 1875, 430; 1880, 589.



St. Ignatius Catholic Church of French Lake, three miles east of the village.



North Crow River Lutheran Church and members at Knapp.



French Lake Roller Mills.

COUNTY NEWS

July 6, 1882

The County History has to be omitted this week. The historian was by other unavoidable business and consequent lack of time prevented from furnishing the manuscript. Maple Lake will come next and will have attention next week.

FURNISHING GOODS,

...MERES, BEAVERS, VESTINGS, &c.

...TOM TRADE A SPECIALTY.

...g Machine; also agent for sale of Tickets for the ...ny to and from Europe and the Western states.

RUG STORE
OLD STAND.

...G S,
...ils, Paints
..., &c.

LEMON BEER & POP
FACTORY,
Rockford, Wright Co. Minn.
CHAS. MUNDING, Proprietor.
☞ Orders from neighboring towns solicited. The trade promptly supplied. [48-tf

A. A. DAVIS. H. D. CADWELL.

TOWN OF MAPLE LAKE

Maple Lake is situated in the central part of the county, is the north half of township 120, range 26, and the south half of township 121, range 26. The town is bounded on the north by Silver Creek, on the east by Monticello and Buffalo, on the south by Chatham and on the west by Corrina and Albion. It was originally all timber land. The east part of the town is somewhat hilly and broken, but the north and west is generally level; the soil is a rich, dark loam, with clay sub-soil. There are many natural meadows, almost every quarter section being well supplied with grass of good quality. The town is well watered by small streams and the numerous lakes; among the latter Maple Lake in the center of the town is the largest, covering about 1,000 acres; the other lakes are Ramsey in the southwest, Mary in the northwest, Lightfoot in the south, and Angus in the east, besides several smaller ones. Only a small portion of the town is under cultivation; about 90 percent is covered with heavy timber or with water.

FIRST SETTLERS

During the winter of 1855 and '56, a road was laid out from Monticello to Forest City, in Meeker county, through the town of Maple Lake, and several claims were taken or marked along the line of this road in the spring of 1856, but little or no improvements were made. The first actual settler was Mr. Joseph Rackliffe, who came from Aroostook county, Maine. John Rackliffe and Loren Wade, with their families, arrived in Wright county on the first of May, 1856, residing during that summer on Monticello prairie, and moved into the town of Maple Lake in October.

Joseph Rackliffe took a preemtion claim on the southwest quarter of section 35, township 121, range 25, in May, 1856, and made considerable of a clearing, built a house, and moved his family to the place in October. Mr. Rackliffe died in 1876, but his widow and sons still occupy the same farm. John Rackliffe and Loren Wade took claims in the vicinity. The next settlers, and who came into the town in the fall of 1856, were Frank Stone, M. Currier and Guy Hamilton; following these came Henry Meyers, Patrick Flaherty, Michael Welton, Richard Jude, M. Pratt, Dr. Rufus Sargent, E. B. McCord, James Somers, James Madigan, Martin Kotilinek, Patrick O'Loughlin, Edward O'Brien and Owen Dailey. Patrick Butler came to the town and settled in the spring of 1860, on the southwest quarter of section 27. His farm is one of the best in town. He has been a leading citizen in town affairs, and the foremost in the advancement of church and schools. The town did not make much progress until about 1867; since that time the settlement and development has been rapid. Of course, nearly all the farms, as is usual in timber land, are small but the land is very productive and time will show that the settlers were wise in selecting homes in this rich agricultural town.

TOWNSITES

Maple Lake, although an interior town, did not escape the townsite and paper city furor of 1857; in the month of August of that year, Dr. Rufus Sargent of Reading, Pa., came to Minnesota deeply impressed with the important duty of founding a city somewhere in the new northwest, and having time and money at his command, he made a careful examination of many places and localities for his pet enterprise, finally fixing his habitation and laying the corner stone of the city of Geneva,

on the southwest quarter of section 33, on the northwest shore of Maple Lake. Here, in his fertile imagination would soon be seen the stately palace, the extensive manufactory, the mart of trade and commerce, the court and possibly the state house, as well as the beautiful parks and busy railroads, and steamboats. The thoughts of all these and much more made him an enthusiast on the sublime future of the wonderful city of Geneva. About 200 acres were surveyed and platted, showy public parks, hotels, public buildings, railroads and a steamboat on the lake were some of the adjuncts to the paper city. City shares were sold, and the city company comprised several of the leading men in the county, among others, Samuel Bennet, C. B. Jordan, J. C. Haven, S. E. Adams, T. M. Brown and J. G. Smith. A building was put up for a store and hotel, and a small clearing made. In the spring of 1858, Dr. Sargent, by writing very flattering letters about the county, and especially the famous new city, induced E. B. McCord of Reading, Pa., to take an interest in Geneva, the store and hotel, and to remove to the place. Mr. McCord arrived on the 12th day of June, 1858, and immediately located at Geneva. This was a great change in the life of Mr. McCord, having previously been engaged in teaching school and other professional callings, he was in no wise fitted for the life of hardships which was before him. Instead of an embryo city, he found nothing but an unfinished rough shanty, with a small stock of goods scattered about, living room, store, kitchen, hotel and sleeping room, all in one, without stove, chairs or table. As his family did not arrive until September, he had to do his cooking as best he could. With no roads except a track through the brush, and nothing but heavy timber on all sides, it required fortitude, patience and nerve to hold that townsite for three or four years. Dr. Sargent left sometime in the fall of 1858; the financial crash had come, and everyone looked

out for himself, the Doctor's next venture is not known. About this time, it was found out that there existed in the state another Geneva, with a prior right to the name, and the name of this town was changed to Maple Lake. The land was finally entered under the townsite law, 197 acres, and very soon after by application to and by order of the district court, was vacated as a townsite and divided among the three remaining proprietors. The quondam city makes a very good farm; Mr. R. King is at present the only resident.

TOWN ORGANIZATION

In the first organization of precincts, the north part of Maple Lake was included in Big Bend precinct, and the south half in Buffalo precinct, but on the 6th of April, 1858, the town of Maple Lake was organized by act of the board of county commissioners, and the 11th day of May was, according to act of the legislature, the time to hold town meeting and elect town officers; by some neglect on the part of the person appointed to post notices, there were no town officers elected. The first town meeting was held on the 4th day of August, 1858, and the persons were elected: E. B. McCord, chairman; William Hartford, Martin Howley, supervisors; Rufus Sargent, town Clerk; Charles Coleman, justice of the peace. When the town was first organized it comprised the same territory, but in 1865, at the time the town of Chatham was established, the board of county commissioners attempted to reduce Maple Lake to a half township, which lead to a law suit in which Maple Lake was the winning town, has been shown in the history of the town of Chatham.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, DEATHS

William Elsenpeter was married to Mary White on the 10th day of May, 1862.

Clara, daughter of Mr. Guy Hamilton, was born June 18, 1857.

Patrick Kline died September 12, 1857.

SCHOOLS

The first school was taught by E. B. McCord in 1860; about the same time a school was kept at Lake Ramsey with Owen Daily, teacher. There are in the town five school districts, four frame school houses and one log school house. The average time schools are in session each year is seven months, and one district has usually nine months of school, with a very good attendance in each. The school board have always been very careful to employ good teachers, and the people, as a rule, take great interest in school matters.

CHURCHES

From a very early date religious services were held in the town; Rev. M. S. Harriman attended in 1857 and '58, and 1859-60, Rev. M. Fox of Monticello preached. A Protestant Union Sabbath school was organized in 1860 and continued for several years, but at present there is no Protestant church organization in the town. St. Timothy's Catholic church was organized in 1865. The Catholics had established a mission here in 1861, of which Father Magnus of St. John's College, Stearns county was the first attendant; after him came Rev. Fathers Mayer, Rev. Gregory

Harding, P. Schaller, J. M. McDermott, Fathers Cauley and Roberts. The present Pastor is Rev. Thomas Briody. In 1865, the society purchased a piece of land in the northwest quarter of section 35, a very eligible site, on high land overlooking the lake, and commenced the erection of a church. The building is 30 x 50 feet and well finished and furnished; services are held here every Sunday to a very large congregation. During a tornado on the 29th of June 1877, the roof of the church was blown off, but the whole town turned out and it was soon repaired. The society have a cemetery on land adjoining the church, quite extensive and well kept. The Catholic church embraces a large majority of the citizens of Maple Lake, and, in fact, it may be called a Catholic town. The people are a very peaceable class; they go through the form of electing justices of the peace and constables, but the offices might safely be called sinecures, as their holders get no work, lawsuits and litigations being almost unknown.

ROADS

There is one main road through the town from east to west, known as the Monticello and Forest City County road. The county has appropriated and expended $300 on the road since 1860; the citizens have taken an interest in public roads, and considering the hilly character of the eastern and southeastern part of the town, have comparatively good roads. There are four roads running from north to south, as well worked, but keeping such a number of roads in repair is a heavy burden on the citizens.

POST OFFICE

The first post office was established in October 1858; the office

was located on the townsite of Maple Lake, and E. B. McCord was the first postmaster. Maple Lake was supplied by the Monticello and Forest City mail route for several years. Mr. McCord retained the office during six years, when he resigned, and Mr. W. G. McCrory having moved into the town and near the townsite, was appointed postmaster in 1865. Three years later, Mr. A. Garden was appointed, to be in turn succeeded by Joseph Rackliffe, who removed the office to his house near the church in section 35, holding the position of postmaster until his death. Patrick Butler was appointed in 1877, and is the present efficient employee of the government. The office is supplied by a weekly mail from Monticello.

GINSENG

Maple Lake being a heavily timbered town, and consequently farming being rather slow work, the few settlers who, in 1860, had depended on their small clearing to support their families and pay for their land, found themselves in straightened circumstances. The very low prices paid for farm products and especially for cattle made it almost impossible to pay for the land, and many were obliged to abandon their claims; others contemplated the same thing when the ginseng trade sprang into being. The town was found to be literally full of the golden roots. One old settler says that in the month of June, 1860, he alone dug one hundred dollars' worth, besides working his small farm, and it was the first money he had seen since his small capital had been exhausted a year previous. The settlers who had contemplated removal in May, changed their minds in June, paid for their land, clothed their children, built better houses and all are happy now where once had been nothing but discontent and squalid poverty before the ginseng advent.

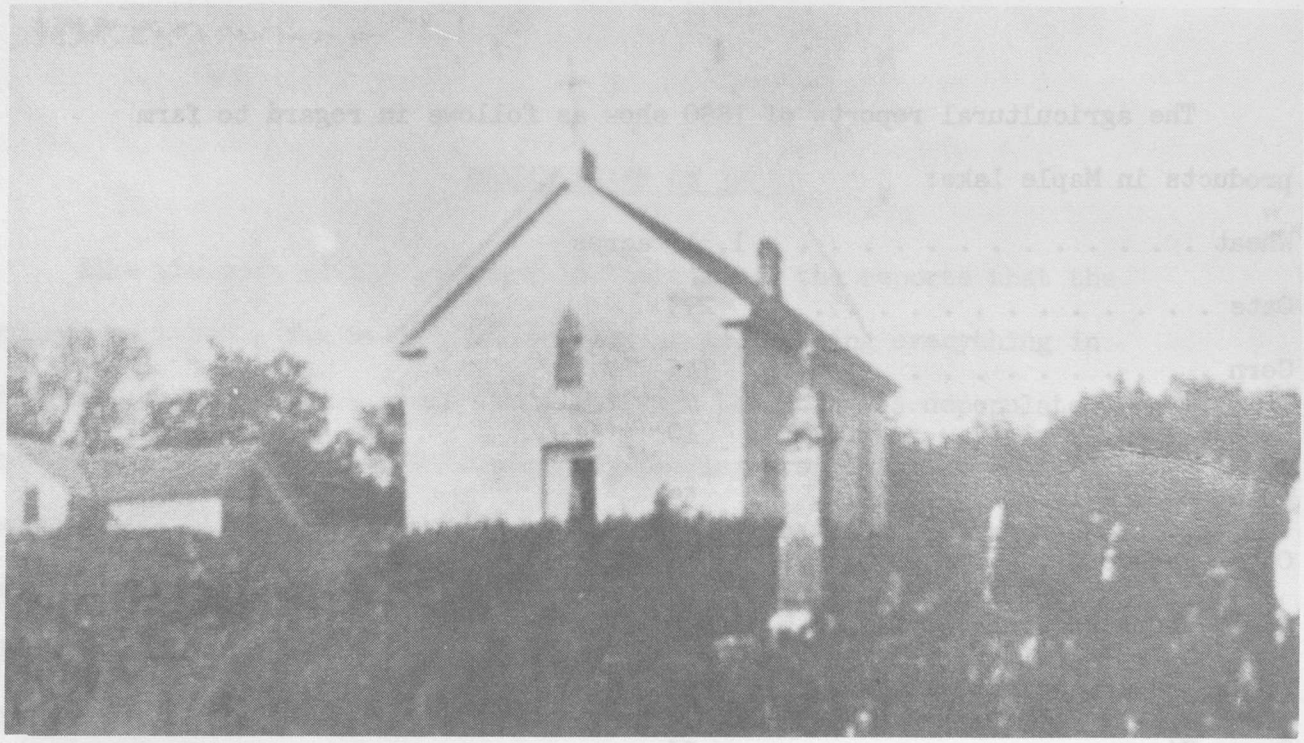
INDIAN SCARE OF 1862

Like the rest of the settlers in the timber, the reports that the Indians were but a few miles off, butchering and burning everything in their way, caused a panic, and for a few days the town was depopulated. Most of the settlers fled to Monticello, leaving everything to go to destruction; the flight was made in the night time, on a report received just at dark, that the people of Albion had all been slaughtered that afternoon; and as there were no horses and the few oxen in town could not readily be found, the flight was on foot; men, women and children fled pell mell to escape the merciless savages and save their lives, many of them so precipitate was their flight, taking only the clothes that covered them. In the next scare, in June 1863, the people were not so easily frightened. It is true that many left, but some of the braver ones met at the house of Joseph Rackliffe and on the high land where the church now stands, and stayed there until the excitement passed away, watching their homes, and occasionally visiting them, and many of them taking care of stock and crops most of the time during the day. Although several of the pioneer settlers in Maple Lake were Americans, very few now remain; Joseph Rackliffe and W. G. McCrory are dead and most of the other Americans are gone. The pioneer Irishmen remain with many new ones of that nationality, and during late years many Canadians, Germans and Bohemians have settled upon the land, and own some very fine farms, they being, for the most part, enterprising, first class farmers. The soil is of the best quality, and Maple Lake is not behind her sister towns in enterprise, intelligence, wealth and social standing.

The agricultural reports of 1880 show as follows in regard to farm products in Maple Lake:

Wheat	1,319 acres
Oats	293 "
Corn	345 "
Barley	10 "
Potatoes	59 "
Other Products	16 "
Apple trees growing	1,578
Apple trees bearing	369
Grape Vines	22
Milch cows	298
Sheep	373
Hogs	278
Horses	144
Working Cattle	34
No. of farms	120

Population - 1860, 111; 1865, 251; 1870,381; 1875, 467; 1880, 576.



St. Timothy's Catholic Church four miles east of Maple Lake.



Desmond homestead in Maple Lake Township.

TOWN OF MARYSVILLE

The town of Marysville is situated in the central part of Wright county; township No. 119, range 26; bounded on the north by the town of Chatham, west by Middleville, south by Woodland and on the east by Rockford. The surface is rolling but not very uneven or broken; the soil is black or dark loam, with clay sub-soil, with 16 lakes and many natural meadows the town is well watered. The north branch of Crow River enters the town in section 6 and flows through sections 7, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 13, 19, and 15; the twin lakes in the southwest part of the town on sections 31, 32, and 33, are commonly called Waverly Lakes, but were named by the government surveyors and laid down on the map of the U. S. survey as Honey Lake in section 31 and Acorn Lake in sections 32 and 33; both together cover about 800 acres. There are 14 other small lakes in the town, the largest of which are Deer lake, Goose and Mink lake, in sections 1 and 2; also a part of Birch lake in section 3 and a small portion of Buffalo lake in section 1. The timber is hard maple, oak, elm, ash and basswood or linden, with quite an amount of tamarack. The soil is very productive, and since the first settlement in 1856, there has been no failure of crops, a dry season or a wet one is always the same, an abundant harvest.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

In the spring of 1856, a road, or what might be called a trail, was marked out and partly opened through the south part of the town, from Greenwood to Cokato on Mooer's Prairie, and several claims were taken or marked along the line of the road, but no permanent settlement

made during that summer. The first settlement was made at the ancient city now called old Waverly, and almost the first to be recorded is the account of the town.

OLD TOWN SITES

M. Duffy, one of the government surveyors, when the township was subdivided in the fall and winter of 1855 and 1856, was struck with the beauty of the location and the available water power on the north side of Honey lake, now called little Waverly lake, at the outlet of the twin lakes, and concluded when his contract was finished in the spring of 1856 to settle there, locate a town and build a mill or mills, having formed a partnership with Deacon Colwell, a former sheriff of Ramsey county, then living at St. Paul, William Colwell, his brother, and Asa Colwell, a nephew, and A. C. Morris (called at the time the Jew Banker) of St. Paul. In the spring of '56, they laid out and surveyed and platted a town site of about three hundred acres, the northeast quarter of section 31 and the northwest quarter of section 32, along the north shore of Honey lake and east to the shore of Acorn lake; the town was named Waverly, from Waverly in Tioga county, N. Y., the former home of the Colwells. They hired men to clear land and commenced to build a dam and get out a frame for a saw mill, and Waverly was quite a busy place during the summer months of 1856. The name and fame of Waverly brought many claim hunters into the big woods, but the townsite company had laid claim or marked, or their friends, or some imaginary person had taken about all of the land in the township, so that the real home hunters were obliged to go further west, and the towns in the west part of the county had actual settlers before Marysville. During 1857, work went on with the dam and mills,

but with the long distance to haul supplies and machinery over almost impassable roads or no roads, it was slow work; the saw mill was nearly completed and preparations were being made to build a grist mill. A small mill was started and other improvements made. Some French Canadians moved into the township. Mr. Francis Sanders located on section 28 at the northeast of Acorn lake. Mr. Michael Roberts on the same section. William Berthiaume, Edward Plouder, and Peter Lebeau on sections 21 and 22. In the fall of 1857, the great bank panic and financial crash came and the town proprietors of Waverly were left without money, all except Jew Morris and he refused to keep the machinery running, the consquence was a family quarrel about dividing the spoils or more properly the debts, and one day in the spring of 1858, Morris left the town going in one direction and Asa Colwell in another but, by chance perhaps, they met the next day at the land office and A.C. Morris preempted and paid for all of the townsite in the northeast quarter of section 31, covering the mill site and mills, Asa Colwell acting as witness for Morris. A few days afterwards when the Elder Colwells began to talk about settling up the mill business, Morris coolly informed them that it was all settled and that the property was all his; then there was a storm, but Morris had succeeded in the scheme and there was no help for it. All work stopped. The cattle strayed away in the night time and some of the pretended owners never saw them again. The goods mysteriously disappeared within two days. The tools and machinery rusted in the brush or at the bottom of the lake, and all was destruction. The parties scattered after doing what damage they could to each other. In 1860, the two Colwell brothers, still holding a claim to part of the townsite, the northeast quarter of section 32, appointed as agent to hold the property, a well known blacksmith Joseph Brown. Brown moved onto the land and acted as agent for the Colwell brothers for nearly a year but made no improvments; in the meantime, A.C. Morris had sold his share of the townsite and mills to Louis Roberts of St.

Paul. Mr. Roberts made pretentions that he was going on with the work but never commenced, and the dam and mills went to decay and ruin. In 1862, Louis Roberts sold to A.D. Kingsley who rebuilt the saw mill and also built a grist mill in 1868. Joe Brown stayed on the Colwell property about a year; during this time Martin Glover had moved into the neighborhood and Brown in one of his very confidential, happy moods, and he had them very often when in a spiritous state, informed Glover that his or Colwell's part of the townsite was subject to private entry at the land office, and next week he would borrow the money and enter the land in his own name. Glover was not obliged to borrow money having been in the ginseng business, so the next day, he started for the land office. A few days afterwards, Mr. Brown said to him; "I have found where I can get the money and shall play a sharp game and a good joke on the Colwells, I am going to the land office in two or three days to enter the land." "Well," said Glover, "you need not be to that trouble, but if you stay here any longer I shall charge you rent; this is my land." A comic drama and almost a tragedy immediately followed. In a few days, Brown left the town. In 1862, Martin Glover sold to Andrew Doerfler; he has since died and his son, George Doerfler occupies that part of the townsite. It makes a splendid farm. The old store stands near, perhaps remarkable for the large amount of whiskey dealt out in days of yore. A small church not now used and a small burying ground on the bank of the lake is all that is left to remind one of the greatness, the aspirations, the hopes, the glory, the wealth and the downfall of this part of old Waverly.

GINSENG

The ginseng trade flourished at Waverly during the years of 1860, '62, and '63; as it is in the heart of the big woods, several buyers were located there. Mr. Lewis of Watertown established a store and transacted a large

business during the summer months. Farming in a great measure was neglected; in fact, Marysville did not make nuch of a show as an agricultural town until the advent of the railroad in 1869. Some few farmers made improvements and had good farms, amongst others, Henry Lammers, Henry Bremer, G.M. Wright, Jeff O'Connell, and John McGenty. Many of the settlers gave their whole attention to ginseng, and made from there a better living and saved up more money than they could have done farming, as their market was so distant and roads so bad that farming scarcely paid. But the building of the railroad through or near the south line of town changed almost everything, and since that time, Marysville has made rapid advances in agriculture.

INDIANS

At the first alarm in August 1862, the settlers fled in a panic; the town was literally deserted, some went to Minneapolis, but many stopped at Rockford and helped build the fort or stockade at that place. After about three months, they began to return only to find their crops destroyed, cattle strayed and horses stolen. This was not the work of the Indians, but of white men who took advantage of the circumstances and kept up the scare by circulating frightful stories to keep the settlers away while they carried on their trade of plunder. In 1863, the Dustin murder took place and as the Dustins resided in this town and were on their way moving to Mooer's Prairie when they were killed, another stampede was the result. Many of the settlers stopped in their flight at Greenwood and helped build the stockade around the Beaver house. But as squads of soldiers and scouts were very soon patrolling this part of the big woods, many of the settlers soon returned to their houses.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

At the first organization of towns in the county, April 6, 1858, the north half of township No. 113, range 36 was attached to Buffalo, and the south half of the same town was made a part of Woodland. On the 14th day of March 1866, the board of county commissioners, then in session in Monticello, received the following petition;

To the honorable board of county commissioners, Wright county, Minn.

Gents: We, the undersigned, legal voters and residents of township No. 119, of range 26 in Wright county, Minnesota, respectfully represent that township No. 119, range 26 is divided as follows: that the north half of said township is a part of the town of Buffalo, and that the south half of said township is a part of the town of Woodland; that on account of the division of said township, and as the north fork of Crow river runs thorugh said township, roads, bridges and other matters are neglected making it very inconvenient for the settlers in every respect, and the long distance to travel to transact any town business; we therefore respectfully petition you to set off, lay out and organize township No. 119 range 26 into a separate and new town, to be named Marysville.

Signed by G.W. Kriedler and 31 others

Date December 5, 1865.

The petition was granted and notice given of the first town meeting to be held at Waverly, April 16, 1866. The following persons were elected:

O. Berthiaume — Chairman;

Geoffrey O'Connell

John Christian — Supervisors

James Treat — Town Clerk

John McGenty	Treasurer
A.D. Kingsley	Justice

All of the town records were burned at old Waverly during the clerkship of C.B. Sleeper, in 1872. The town officers for 1882 are:

J.N. Haven	Chairman
E. Meister	
A.N. Larson	Supervisors
D.W. Flannigan	Town Clerk
J.Y. Bloom	Treasurer
H.C. Morneau	Assessor and Justice

SCHOOLS

The first school was taught by Mrs. Catherine Haines, in 1860; school was kept in a small log cabin owned by Patrick Banning and situated nearly opposite the residence of John Young in section 30. The school got no support from the county or town, but the teacher's wages, $1.00 per week, were paid by subscription raised by G.M. Wright. Mrs. P. Fallihee was also one of the pioneer teachers. There are now six school houses in the town. The new school house built at Waverly in 1881 is 30 x 50 feet with 20 feet posts, and is well finished and furnished. They have about nine months school during the year, and employ first class teachers. The school house at Montrose, built in 1880, is 26 x 40, and two stories high; they have eight months school with a large and growing attendance. The citizens of both villages and the whole town take a lively interest in education, and with few exceptions they have good schools and buildings.

MILLS

The first mill was built by Colwell, Morris & Co. in 1857, but did not

amount to much; when A.D. Kingsley purchased the property in 1862, the whole concern had rotted and was good for nothing. Mr. Kingsley built a saw mill that year and a grist mill in 1868; the latter did good work for several years. In 1874, Mr. Kingsley sold to C.W. Bonniwell, who greatly improved the mill, and made it one of the best mills in the county. On the 22nd of February, 1882, the mill was burned, and everything about it destroyed. Mr. Bonniwell commenced to rebuild in the spring of 1882. The present mill is probably the best flouring mill in Wright county; 30 x 50 feet and three stories, furnished with all the improved modern machinery; is a roller mill, with a splendid water power and a 30 horse power engine attached to the main shaft, so that if any accident happens to the water power, the mill can still be kept running, and the customers need fear no delays. A steam saw mill was built in 1872, on the land of G.M. Wright, now in the village of Montrose; the proprietors were J.N. Haven, Otto Haven and Dr. A.L. Tucker. It was run by a twenty-five horse power engine. As the mill is on the line of the railroad it has always done a good business sawing hardwood lumber, of which there is an abundance in the vicinity. In 1874, Dr. Tucker sold his interest to W.H. Mapes, who subsquently sold to J.N. Haven; the latter is now sole proprietor.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Michael, son of John Cline, was born March 15, 1859. David, son of Geoffrey O'Connell, was born March 19, 1859.

Michael Cassey and Ellen McHugh were married December 16, 1860.

Miss Johanna Hartwell died September 17, 1861.

TOWNSITE OF MARYSVILLE

In December, 1856, Mr. Ed. Ploudre and Peter Lebeau, Canadian Frenchmen and A.C. Smith , afterwards register of the land office at Forest City, laid out the town of Marysville on the north fork of Crow river, the southeast quarter of section 21, and the southwest quarter of section 22. There were here a few acres of prairie, but for what other reason this place was selected for a city no one can imagine. There was no water power or falls in the river, and no other natural advantages. Mr. Ploudre had taken a claim there, and through his representation the others became interested. The townsite was surveyed and platted during the winter of 1857, and shares were sold to considerable amount. In the spring of 1858, the engine and machinery for a saw mill were purchased, and a road was cut from near the present townsite of Montrose to the river or to the city of Marysville. At one time several teams were engaged to go to St. Paul and haul up the heavy machinery for the saw mill, but about that time there were heavy rains, the roads were very soft and muddy and the time to haul the mill was put off, and finally given up until winter; but the Marysville boom still went on and many families of Canadian French were inquiring the way to the new city. In the fall of 1857, the timber was got out for a large Catholic church. James E. Cochrane, William Berthiaume, George Doerfler and the Frenchmen generally assisted in cutting, hewing and hauling out the timber. The church was to be erected on the north side of the river, near the present residence of Andrew Granger. The timber was got out and framed for a bridge over Crow river; logs were cut for the saw mill, a store and blacksmith shop were put up, roads were partially opened in every direction and many anxiously awaited the saw mill, but alas! it never came. The logs rotted, the hewed timber for the church dried up, and was eventually burned; the bridge remained unfinished

the store was closed and the sounding anvil was heard no more. A.C. Smith lost all interest or the hard times prevented his taking a lively interest; one after another the residents left, and faith in Marysville had fled; yes, even hope was dead, and the moving spirit, Edward Ploudre, after much suffering and tribulation and near starvation, left the city to fate and to be jumped by the first squatter that came along and wanted it, leaving no monument to mark the spot. Mr. Andrew Granger has a very good farm on a part of the old townsite. The first settlers began to come in the beginning of 1858. On the 8th of January of that year, Geoffrey O'Connell, a native of Ireland, came into the town. He took a claim on the northeast quarter of section 30, built a very small cabin for protection, partly dug-out in the side of a hill, and has worked on the same nearly 25 years. His capital consisted then of a very few dollars in his pocket, hardly enough to last through the winter, and a wife and one small child; now he has over 400 acres of land; 10 children, good buildings, cattle, horses, hogs, and sheep in abundance, and everything comfortable and convenient about him, and his boys have no disposition to leave home, as they well know that there is a good farm provided for each of them when they want it. A thousand pounds of boys is a great help to a farmer, but very few are thus favored; but even the oldest, now near 20, is willing to work under the direction of father and mother, well knowing that there is a good farm with buildings, when he is ready to strike out for himself. During the winter of 1858, came Stephen Meister, John Cline, Thomas McHugh, John McHugh, John McGenty and many others; in 1859 George M. Wright and Patrick Bannan settled on section 32; Thomas Muldoon on section 34, A. Gendrau on section 28; M. Reardon on section 31; James Birmingham on section 18; and the Berthiaumes on sections 6 and 7; and a large part of the land in the town was claimed; many of the first claimants got discouraged and left, and their names do not deserve a place in history.

RAILROADS

The first division of the St. Paul and Pacific railroad, now the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba road was opened from St. Paul to Marysville in December, 1868. The wood and timber trade has been considerable, as the town was well timbered and the opening of the railroad gave an impetus to farming; the railroad lands came into market and were readily sold to actual settlers; the railroad company owned nearly one half of the land in the town. Before the opening of the railroad it was slow and expensive work clearing land, the timber had to be piled and burned; the railroad company or their agents did not pay a large price for wood, but the wood always paid for clearing and fencing the land; besides it made a home market for all farm products, and Marysville,and especially the farm interests began to prosper, and the railroad was a good thing for all.

THE MOUND BUILDERS

In this town there does not appear many of the relics of the ancient race; there are no mounds yet found along Crow river, but the ground has not all been looked over. A careful examination will, no doubt, yet show many mounds and earth works; the casual observer would pass them by and call them natural, when a thorough examination would develop the fact that they are artificial. The series of mounds and earth-works in section 32, between the Waverly lakes, have for a long time been considered natural; by investigation they show conclusively the handiwork of man. The largest mound is located on a point at the narrows, or the outlet of Acorn lake, and is about 60 feet in diameter and 8 or 10 feet high; it probably has been 20 feet high, being on the bank of the lake; if it were a natural mound it would in part be composed

of sand or gravel and stones. There is nothing of the kind, however, in its composition; it is made of top soil, such as surrounds the place. The mound has been opened and a skull and other remains of a human being (not an Indian) found. Running on a line west are two other mounds, about the same diameter but not so high, equi-distant and in line, making three in a row. Several other mounds are found in the vicinity, which plainly show that there was, at one time in past ages, a large settlement of these unknown people near the townsite of old Waverly.

THE DUSTIN FAMILY

The vicitims of the Indian massacre of June, 1878, are buried at old Waverly in a family burying ground, not used as a public cemetery.

CHURCHES

At an early day in 1858, the Methodists held meetings in town, and a class was formed, partly in this town and partly in Woodland; Mr. and Mrs. G.M. Wright were among the members in Marysville, and services were often held in their house. The Methodist church of Montrose has grown from this class; they have a substantial church edifice; the house was built in 1880, and is 20 x 40; it is not yet finished, but services are held there in regularly each sabbath.

In 1861, a Catholic mission was established at old Waverly, which finally became the church of the Immaculate Conception, German Catholic. Services were held in 1861 and 1862, by Father Magnus of St. John's college as also by Fathers Mayer and Koering. In 1866, a small church was built, 22 x 30, where services were held regularly until 1872. A small burial ground surrounds the church; about 40 bodies were buried there. The church is not used at present, the large new church of St. Mary's at Waverly station seems to have absorbed the members of this pioneer church.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Services were held at the dwelling of Mr. Patrick Fallihee in May, 1872, by Father Cahill, also by Rev. Arthur Hurley in 1873. The church was built in 1874. Rev. John McDermott was the first resident pastor. The church building is 40 x 60, and well finished and furnished, with a very large membership and a prosperous society. The pastors, especially Father McDermott, have been noted for strong total abstinence of temperance precepts and examples. Rev. W. McGolrick of Minneapolis and Rev. P. Kenny, now parochus at Litchfield, Meeker County have been resident pastors here. The present pastor is Rev. John Swift.

The German Lutheran church. or the Evangelical association of Montrose, was organized in 1880; they have a good house of worship, 28 x 42, built in 1880. The house is well finished, and services are held each Sabbath to a large and growing congregation. The present pastor is Rev. Wm. Fitz. In the central part of the town, on sections 15, 16, 17, 21, 23, there is a large settlement of Swedes and other Scandinavians; they have a Swede Lutheran church, built in 1880, a large congregation and a well laid out cemetery.

POSTOFFICES

A postoffice was established at old Waverly in 1863, A.D. Kingsley P.M.; the office was supplied by the weekly mail route from Rockford to Mooer's Prairie. Geo. Doerfler was appointed postmaster in 1868, and when he moved to Waverly station in 1870, he removed the office. Mr. Doerfler held the office until 1873, when the present postmaster, L.V. Kyte was appointed.

The Montrose postoffice was established in 1866; and named after a Pennsylvania town by Geo. M. Wright. In 1879, W.P. Holbrook was appointed P.M. and the office removed to the railroad station. When the village was laid out it was named Montrose, as the postoffice, which had been established several years, gave it a local reputation.

VILLAGES

When the railroad was completed to this town and the cars had commenced running in 1869, the railroad company owned a part of section 33, and as they wished, as was their practice, to make all the money they could out of their possessions, they located the station in this town on their own land, the south-west quarter of section 33, and surveyed and platted a townsite, and named it Waverly station. A station house was built that year and a grain house or elevator in 1870. The first store was opened by T.R. Barrett, who, after two or three years changed it to a saloon and hotel, the Keystone House; he has since died, and his widow still keeps the hotel. The next store was that of Geo. Doerfler, removed from old Waverly; then came Thomas Clarke, P. Fallihee opened another store in the spring of 1870; he erected a new store building in 1879, 26 x 100, with a large hall in the second story, it is one of the largest and finest stores in the county. In 1871, Wm. Quinn & Co. opened a general store, but soon changed to agricultural implements. In 1873, came J.K. Cullen from Watertown, and opened a general store. Jno. Giblin and others soon followed. The stores are all doing a good business; there are in the village: five saloons, one agricultural implements, two elevators, or grain houses and four hotels. The Waverly House is the largest and best managed hotel; it was built in 1874 for a dwelling by Mr. A. Konners, who sold to H.C. Morneau in 1874. Mr. Morneau built an addition to the house and opened

a hotel. His customers liked him so well that his business increased so fast that he was obliged to make another addition in 1881. The hotel is one of the nicest, quietest, orderly, well furnished and well kept hotels in the county. Waverly is a pleasant, prosperous village, located on one of the very pleasant lakes; it is quite a summer resort for pleasure seekers; it was incorporated as a village in 1881; the officers are: Mr. Quinn, president; C.H. Cullen,recorder J.K Cullen, L.V. Kyte and D.W. Flannigan, trustees; C.H. Cullen, justice and D.W. Flannigan, constable.

MONTROSE

In 1878, J.F. Miller, T.S. Gunn, and J.N. Haven had surveyed and platted a townsite in the southeast quarter of section 35, and the southwest quarter of section 36, and named it Montrose. The railroad runs through the townsite and a station was established and a station house built that year. Mr. Miller & Co. built a grain house and started a large general store, and did a very good business, dealing in wood and ties, and buying grain for two or three years. They have since sold out their interest in the town. Several stores were afterwards opened and Montrose had become quite a business place. There are now four general stores, one hardware store, one furniture store, one picture store, one boot and shoe store, one sewing machine and farm implements store, two blacksmith shops, one hotel, one saloon, one harness shop and two elevators. The village was incorporated in 1881, and the following village officers were elected: W.H. Mapes, president; G. Burner, G.M. Wright, W.P. Holbrook and Jas. Scott, trustees; Thos. Weekly, justice; Jas. Snyder, constable.

CROP STATISTICS

The agricultural reports of 1880 show that the town of Marysville produce

as follows:

Wheat	1,607 acres
Oats	582 "
Corn	324 "
Barley	3 "
Potatoes	122 "
Cultivated Hay	100 "

Apple trees growing, 162; bearing, 35; milch cows, 218; sheep, 109; hogs, 278; horses, 142; beef and working cattle, 59; number of farms, 165.

POPULATION

1870, 572; 1875; 1880 - Marysville township, including villages, 1377. Waverly village, 124; Montrose village, 141.

Andrew Hansemann,

—DEALER IN—

Household & Office Furniture,

Mouldings, Picture Frames, &c.

Coffins of all Sizes,



Trimmings, Etc., Etc.

Repairing of Furniture, Picture

FRAMING, &c. PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

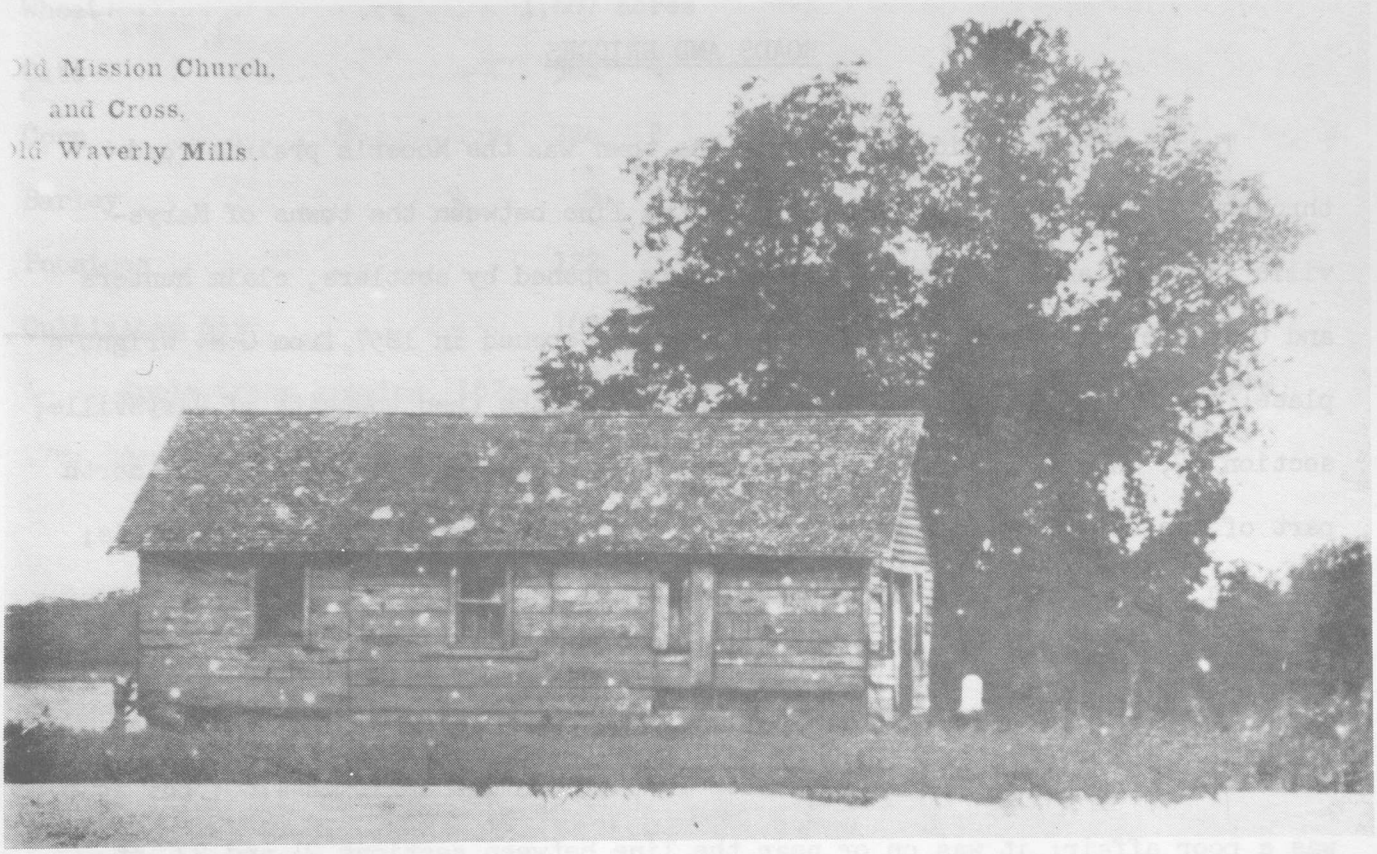
A full and well selected stock of all goods in my line of business, always on hand AND FOR SALE AT LOWEST PRICES.

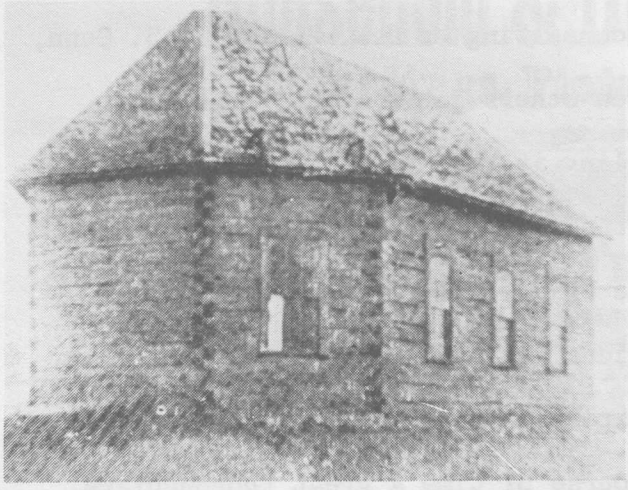
ROADS AND BRIDGES

The first road laid out through the town was the Mooer's prairie road through the southern part and nearly on the line between the towns of Marysville and Woodland; this road was partially opened by settlers, claim hunters and townsite owners in 1857. Another road was opened in 1857 from G.M. Wright's place, or what is now the village of Montrose to the then townsite of Marysville, section 22, on Crow River. In 1858 a road was opened from Waverly to the north part of the town, crossing Crow river near where the Marysville bridge now is; the town is well supplied with roads, but until 1880 they were very poor. During the past two years many improvements have been made, and nearly all of the roads are in good shape.

The first bridge over Crow river in the town was built in 1860, but it was a poor affair; it was on or near the line between sections 21 and 22, at the townsite of Marysville; it was rebuilt in 1864 with $150 help from the county, and was again rebuilt in 1876. Another bridge was built over the river in 1874 in section 7, the county paying $250. This bridge was built in section 13; in 1879, the citizens of Montrose then consisting of J.F. Miller, T.S. Gunn, G.M. Wright, J.N. Haven, W.H. Mapes and a few others got a county road laid out direct to Buffalo, the county seat, calling it "the short line", and expecting that nearly all communication with the railroad from the central part of the county would use the short line. The bridge over Crow river as also that over Buffalo creek were built by individual enterprise. It was rather an expensive job, and has not as yet met the expectation of the contributions but the road is yet new and may become in the course of time a great thoroughfare.

)ld Mission Church,
and Cross,
)ld Waverly Mills.

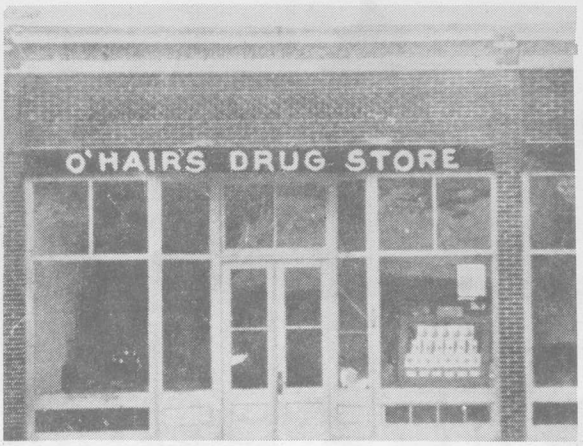




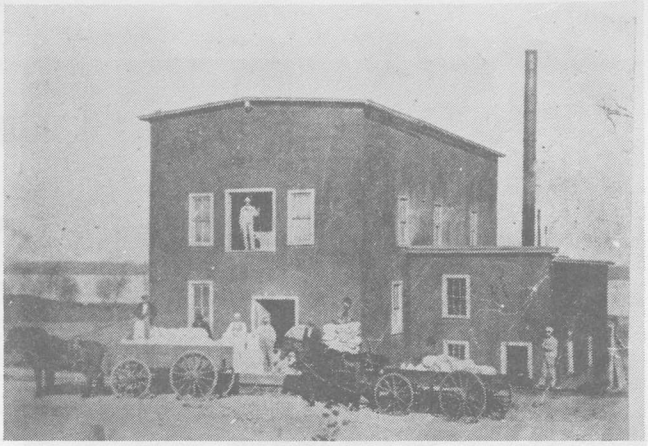
Swedish Lutheran Church in Marysville Township.



View west of Waverly Lake.

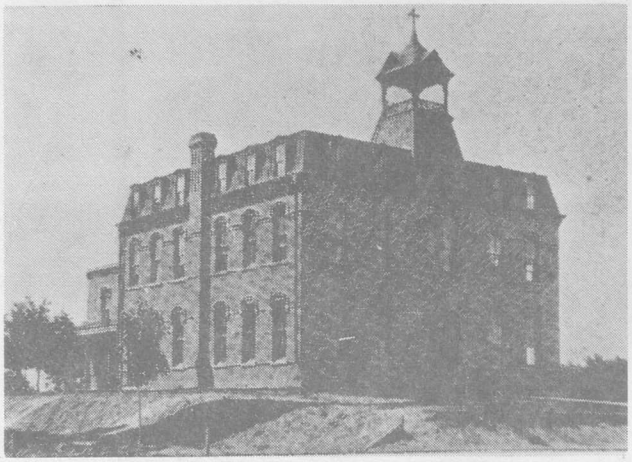


Dr. O'Hair's Drug Store in Waverly.

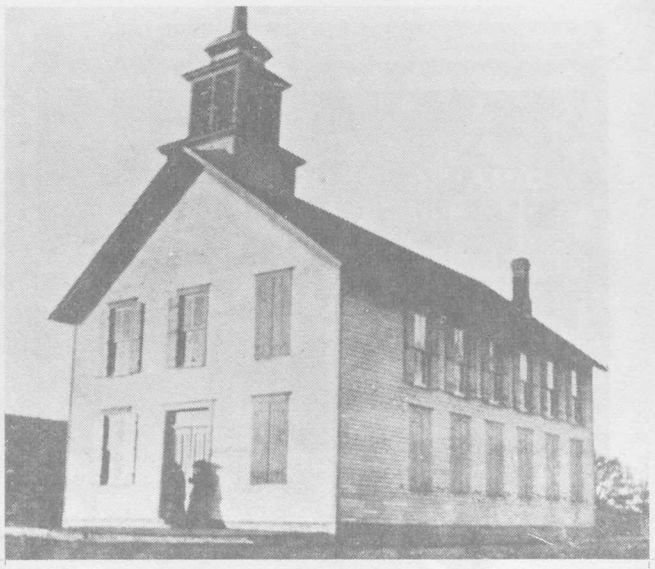


Waverly Flour Mill.





Waverly Catholic School.



Waverly's first public school.





C. G. Kingstedt's home in Waverly.

TOWN OF MIDDLEVILLE

Middleville is situated in the southwest part of Wright county, six miles from the county line, south and west; it is bounded on the north by Albion, on the east by Marysville, on the south by Victor and on the west by Cokato. Originally, on the first organization of the towns in the county, in April, 1858, there were 4 townships in Middleville; the towns of Cokato, Stockholm and Victor have since been organized out of the territory. Middleville now is township 119 of range 27. The township was originally nearly all timber land, oak, linden and a large amount of hard maple. The surface is more generally level than any other timber town in the county, but just enough rolling, so as to make it an excellent farming town; the soil is a rich dark loam, with clay sub-soil, no sandy or light soil in the township. There are many natural meadows, and the town is well watered; the north fork of Crow river enters the town in section 18 and runs through sections 17, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 1; there are besides several large creeks from lakes, in the town of Albion and French Lake.

LAKES

Howard Lake is nearly all in this town, in sections 27, 28, 33 and 34, covering about 800 acres; it is the finest body of water in the county. It was named Howard from the famed English philanthropist, Sir John Howard, in the spring of 1856 by Irvin Shrewsbury, of the town of Independence, Hennepin county, and Abraham Adams, an engineer or surveyor of Shakopee, who made claims on the south side of the lake, and partly

surveyed and laid out a townsite in May 1856, near the present village of Howard, but did not finish the work. Smith Lake, in section 31, is the next largest lake in the town, covering about 300 acres, and named in August 1858, by Engineer Smith, who surveyed the first line of the St. Paul and Pacific railroad through the county. The other lakes are: Goose Lake and Swanson's Lake, in section 2, Junken's Lake in section 6, Hawkin's Lake in section 13, Taylor's Lake in sections 22 and 23, Doerfler's Lake in sections 25 and 26, School Lake in section 36. There is very little poor or waste land in the township, and almost every quarter section has an occupant, in some amongst the Scandinavians, three or four families in one quarter section. Many of the settlers have large and well cultivated farms, and are prosperous, contended and happy. Almost all nationalities are represented, but the American and German predominate.

FIRST SETTLERS

The first actual settler was George Reinmuth, a native of Germany, who first settled in the United States at Pittsburg, Penn., in 1852; he came to St. Paul in 1856, and on May 7, 1869, took a claim in section 27, on the north shore of Howard Lake. Shortly afterwards he moved his family on to his claim, and has continued to reside there to the present time. Having limited means, he and his family had the full benefit of pioneer life. Without a team of any kind, the ax and hoe were all the farming tools used for the first few years. No roads, no neighbors, he was isolated and alone nearly all of the first year, and had many hard tramps with much trial and suffering. He has now a well cultivated farm, and with his sons and daughters is enjoying life on one of the pleasantest among the many pleasant and picturesque homes on the shore of the beautiful

lake. August Enke came into the town with Reinmuth, made a claim and some improvements on a lot adjoining on section 28, and moved his family here the next year; he is a carpenter by trade, but has worked on his farm for the past 24 years; his farm is one of the best in town, and they are the pioneer settlers; Mr. Henry Boam is a native of Ohio, and came to Minnesota in 1854, was engaged in U. S. government surveys, for a surveying party from Glencoe prairie to near Howard Lake, helping to subdivide this and some other townships. In running the lines he came across the small prairie on the bank of Crow river in the northwest quarter of section 10, and concluded to make a home there. For two or three years, he spent most of his time in hunting up claims for settlers, exploring the country, or in hunting or fishing, and did not do an extensive business at farming. He has now a good farm and everything about him comfortable and pleasant; he has always been and still is a busy man, and useful citizen, looking after the welfare of his town and his locality; has held important town offices, and has been for a number of years postmaster at Middleville postoffice. John L. King came from West Virginia, and took a claim in section 35, on the 17th day of May, 1857; he has continued to reside in the town since that time. He has a fine farm in section 34, on the north shore of Howard Lake; he has held many town offices, and was the first chairman of the board of supervisors, and consequently a member of the board of county commissioners, in 1858 and 1859. In the spring of 1858, came Jacob Sheppard, who settled on section 28, and John L. Barth on section 22. A. E. Cochran, Joseph Borell and Andrew Doerfler came next, and sections 22 and 23 were nearly all taken. About this time, W. P. Holbrook made the claim where the village of Smith Lake is now located. In 1858, and 1859 the land was nearly all claimed except many of the odd numbered

sections which went to the railroad company, as they pretended to locate their road in 1858; very soon they held each alternate section for six miles on either side of the surveyed line.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

On the organization of the town by the county commissioners in the spring of 1858, the four townships in the southwest part of the county were put under one organization, and named by M. V. Cochran, Middleville, from his native town in Virginia. The first town meeting was held at the house of M. V. Cochran, May 11, 1858, near the present village of Howard Lake, and the following named persons were elected town officers; John L. King, chairman; Jason Lobdel, Edwin Brester, supervisors, M. V. Cochran, town clerk; Geo. Doerfler, treasurer; A. J. Gardner, assessor; A. E. Cochran, justice of the peace; Timothy Lowell, constable.

FIRST SCHOOL

The first school was taught by Mrs. Lavina Cochran, commenced in May 1860, in school district No. 45, then comprising the present towns of Victor and Middleville. A small log school house was built on the bank of Howard Lake.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Lavina C. Reinmuth, daughter of George Reinmuth, was born July 21, 1858. Emma Enke, daughter of August Enke, was born May 29, 1859. The first death was Gustav Reinmuth, son of George Reinmuth, died April 12, 1861. The first marriages in town were those of Joseph Sheppard and John Leonard Barth; they had been living alone and doing their own cooking and

house keeping, but getting tired of the lonely life, they went to St. Paul in November 1857, for the express purpose of finding wives, and in two or three days returned, having succeeded and brought their wives with them.

GINSENG

In the general hard times of 1859, many of the first settlers left, as they could not get anything to live on, and the town would have been depopulated, had not the ginseng business commenced in 1860, and the settlers of this town been saved by digging roots. The town was well stocked with the article, and the settlers got a good start with the money earned by that business.

THE INDIAN SCARE

In 1862, the settlers all left; many went to St. Paul and Minneapolis, but some stopped at Greenwood and Rockford, and worked at forts and stockades, and the town was left for many days without a single inhabitant. But in 1862, many of the settlers did not scare so easily; many persons remained on their farms; although the Dustin massacre took place in Middleville, the people were not so much frightened as those at a distance, and the experience of 1862, in losing crops and stock, kept many of the men and some of the braver women at home watching the worse thieves than Indians.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The first road laid out through the town was near the south line, east and west, and partly in the town of Victor, called the Mooer's prairie road, partially opened in 1856; since that time, four roads have been laid out, running north and south, and crossing Crow river, most of the

roads are well worked and are in good condition; as the township is nearly level, there will be in a few years many fine driveways, as the citizens are much interested in good roads in almost every direction.

BRIDGES

The first bridge over Crow river was built in 1869, on section 10, near Henry Boam's, the county of Wright paying $100; the balance of the money, $300, was raised by subscription; a new bridge will be built this year at the same place, the county having appropriated $300 for that purpose, the balance from the town. Another bridge was built in 1879, on the southwest quarter of section 8, at H. Albrecht's mill; the bridge will be rebuilt this year, the county having appropriated $300. The best bridge on Crow river in this town was built in 1880, on the section line between sections 8 and 9, costing about $500, the county paying $200. A new bridge has been built on the southwest quarter of section 12, the county paying $150, the balance by the town; this bridge is not of much use yet, and will not be until roads are made, leading to it. A bridge has been built during the past year over the outlet of Lake Henry, the county paying $100, the town $100, individuals $200. Taken altogether, Middleville is well supplied with bridges.

CHURCHES

Quite a large number of the citizens of Middleville are Friends or Quakers, as they are generally called; the Friends' meeting house on the north side of the river is in the southeast corner of section 5. Built in 1879, it is a large house and at the time they had a large society, but several of the leading members have removed from that vicinity and they

do not have meetings only occasionally; they have a Friends' burying ground near the church. The other Friends' meeting house is on the southeast corner of section 11; they have a neat house and a prosperous society; the house was built in 1877. A Methodist church was organized in 1878 on the south side of the river; they have as yet no house of worship, but hold their meetings in the Friends' church on section 5. Another Methodist society was organized in 1873, at Smith Lake village; they have regular services in the red school house on scetion 5; several of the school houses are used on Sunday for church purposes.

SCHOOLS

There are six school districts in town, and five frame school houses, nearly all of them well finished, and neat, nice and comfortable schools, all taught from six to nine months in each district. There are very few towns in the county where so much interest is taken in having fine school houses and good schools; the leading citizens are liberal in raising money to support them, and have been very careful in selecting good teachers and paying them good wages.

MILLS

Herman Albrecht built a grist mill on Crow river, in section 8, in 1879 - the only mill of the kind in the town; the mill has a good water power, three run of burrs, is a substantial structure and is doing a good business. M. V. Cochran & Co. built a steam saw mill at Smith Lake in 1873, 25 horse power; this mill was burned in 1875, and was rebuilt in 1876, with the same power, but was burned in 1879. The burned mill, or what was left of it, was sold in 1880 to Hindman and Workman, and rebuilt

in 1881; it is now a first class saw mill, 55 horse power, and as it is a good timber country, is doing a good business generally. A small steam saw mill was built at Boam's place in 1877, and run for two or three years, but has gone to decay and is not used at present; there are not many water powers on Crow river in this town; it is generally a slow, sluggish stream, and can never turn many mill wheels; the power used for future mills will have to be steam.

THE FAMINE OF 1867

As it has been said, the railroad company held nearly one-half of the land in this town, almost every odd numbered section, from 1858 to 1866, and during war times from 1861 to 1865, and also during the Indian troubles many of the old or first settlers left the town, so that in the fall of 1865, there were but very few inhabitants; but in the spring and summer of 1866, the near prospect of a railroad being built, as the railroad land had come into the market, and there were many vacant homesteads in the town, settlers began to pour in, and during 1866, a large part of the homesteads were taken, and a large part of the railroad lands purchased by actual settlers; some of them came late in the season and a large majority did not raise any crops; and as many of them were in very close quarters for the necessaries of life; and as many of them had expected to find employment on the railroad to be built that year, they were disappointed. The spring of 1867 is noted as a very wet season; through the months of April, May, June and July this part of the country was almost flooded, rendering it almost impossible to work on railroads or anything else, the roads were impassable and the railroad company did not do anything. The settlers along the proposed line who had depended on railroad work,

were without employment and many of them without money or necessary food. Applications were made to the board of county commissioners for temporary relief, with what success has been stated in the county history. About 150 persons in Middleville asked for relief by application and certificates, signed by the board of supervisors and town clerk, and received help from the county; two or three members of the Friends' church went to St. Anthony, Minneapolis and St. Paul, to solicit aid to save the starving citizens of Middleville, and succeeded in raising four or five hundred dollars. From what was contributed by the county or received from individuals, it would seem that the citizens of Middleville were in a destitute and deplorable condition.

RAILROADS

The first division of the St. Paul & Pacific, now the St. P. M. & M. R. R. was finished from St. Paul to Middleville in the spring of 1859. The road runs near the south line of the town, through sections 31, 32, 33, and 36; since this time the town has made advances in population and wealth; the wood business has been very large; much of the town was covered by a dense growth of hard or sugar maple, the best kind and the highest priced wood, and the railroad has made a ready home market for all farm products; consequently farming lands have become valuable as well as timber or woodlands and the town is fast being settled by a class of enterprising farmers always sure of a good crop and a good home market for all farm products.

VILLAGES

In 1870, soon after the railroad was completed, Mr. J. Dunn and H. Tanner purchased quite a large tract of land in section 36, at the southeast corner

of section 1 adjoining in the town of Victor, made some improvements on the land in Middleville and built a large store building and dwelling house; a store was opened and preparations were made for laying out a town. Negotiations were opened with F.R. Delano, Geo. L. Becker and others of the railroad company to establish a station and build a depot at or near 12 mile creek, very near the southeast corner of the town; but the failure to succeed just at that time was on account of not being able to purchase the land of Andrew Beck, adjoining on the east, to make the townsite complete. Andrew's primitive one-horse saw mill on the creek near the railroad would have been a great addition to the new town; but when the town proprietors offered him his price, he jumped higher, and this thing was played two or three times in as many months, and the new town and the station were delayed on account of Beck's ambition to get an exorbitant price for his land, and the valuable water power and machinery. Then came the failure of the firm and their mammoth establishment on the Minnesota river, the loss or failure to retain $8,000 for the new store at 12 mile creek stopped all further proceedings and negotiations, and the new town closed its eyes in death, and Waverly and Howard Lake lost a very much feared rival, which if it had been successful, would no doubt have ruined both.

SMITH LAKE VILLAGE

Smith Lake village is located in section 30; the claim was first taken by Eugen Smith, who located and surveyed the first line of the railroad in 1858, and gave his name to the lake. Smith did not perfect the title to the land, and in 1865, it was taken as a pre-emption claim by W.P. Holbrook. In July, 1869, the land, about 65 acres, was entered as a townsite and surveyed and platted by W.P. Holbrook and L.W. Perkins. The townsite is nearly level, a fine location for a village, the best in the county. A depot was built in 1869 and a water tank; at present, it is the principal station in the county

for trains to take wood and water. The first store was established in 1869 by L.W. Perkins; he sold out to L.W. Parks & Co. in 1872. The store in 1874, passed into the hands of Brooks and Co. and has for a number of years been kept by R. M. Morgan, who keeps a large general store, well stocked, and is doing a large business; a good drug store is kept by John Bennett. The first hotel was opened in 1869 by L.W. Perkins, and is now kept by Alex. Fashant; also a boarding house by Elijah Doble, one of the old settlers of the town of Corrinna, who also runs a blacksmith and wagon shop. Millinery store by Mrs. Bennett, and dress making by Miss LaSalle; shoe and boot shop, L. Watson. The elevator or grain house, capacity 15,000 bushels was built in 1877, by R.M. Morgan, and is owned and run by him. As good roads and bridges connect Smith Lake with the north part of the town, and also the town of Albion and French Lake, this is quite an important wheat market, and considerable trade centers here. The steam saw mill of Hindman and Workman is one of the largest and best in the county. James Z. Cochrane is one of the busy men of this vicinity; he deals largely in real estate, loans money and attends to legal business, besides being engaged extensively in farming; his fine residence and farm are a part of and adjoining the village; he has spent a large amount of time and money in trying to improve the stock in this part of the county by purchasing blooded cattle and hogs and horses; during the past three or four years he has done more to improve stock than any other man in the county. Such attempts at improvement are readily seen in the neighborhood, in all kinds of farm stock, and is generally as in his case a public benefit, but generally not very profitable business to the person engaged in it. But there is much satisfaction to the generous minded to be a public benefactor. Altogether, Smith Lake and its generous, wide-awake citizens are a success; one of the old pioneers resides here, Mr. A.E. Cochran; he came into this towm in July 1857, and has been very

useful in many ways, in helping for many years to locate claims and assist the early settlers in helping organize the town; holding at various times almost all of the important town offices; besides being postmaster for many years; with true old Virginia hospitality his latch string was never pulled in; during the hard times and destitution in the early settlement of this town, all classes and all nationalities found a helping hand, and when all others failed, a home with uncle Aaron and his whole-souled help-meet.

POSTOFFICES

The Big Woods postoffice was established in 1861, and was one of the pioneer offices in the woods. A. E. Cochran was appointed postmaster. The office was supplied by the Rockford and Mooer's Prairie mail route weekly. The office was removed to Smith Lake village in 1875, and the name changed to Smith Lake. R. M. Morgan is now postmaster. Middleville postoffice was established in 1869, at Boam's on Crow river; Henry Boam was appointed postmaster, and has held the office to the present time; the office is supplied by the Clearwater and Howard Lake mail route weekly. A mail runs north from Smith Lake each week to the corners in French Lake township; a part of the citizens of Middleville are accomodated by the postoffice at Howard Lake.

FARM PRODUCTS

The reports of agriculture for the year 1880 show that Middleville produced as follows: Wheat, 571 acres, oats, 55 acres; corn, 97 acres, barley, 40 acres; potatoes, 9 acres; sugar cane, 3 acres; cultivated

hay, 17 acres; apple trees growing, 2,351; apple trees bearing, 174; grape vines bearing, 58; milch cows, 66; sheep, 86; hogs, 52; horses, 42; working oxen, 12; farms, 150.

POPULATION

1860, 120; 1865, 232; 1870, 362; 1875, 736; 1880, 1,179.

...ed. The trade promptly supplied. [43-tf

NEW

Harness Shop

ROCKFORD, MINN.

CHAS. M. CONZET, PROPRIETOR.

Harnesses and all work in this line of business made to order.

Prompt and Careful Attention Given to REPAIRING.

☞Satisfactory Work Guaranteed.

ROCKFORD



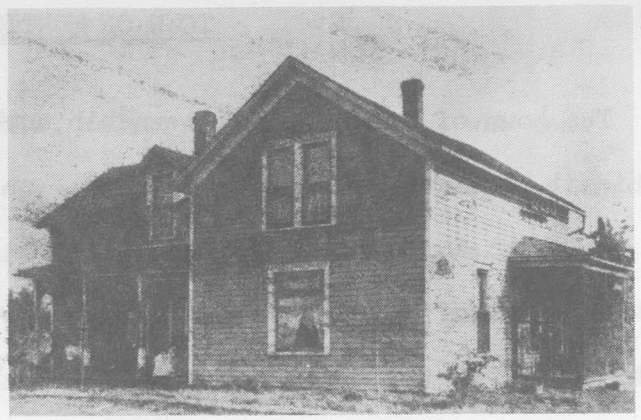
Herman Albrecht home and store built at Albright in the 1880's.



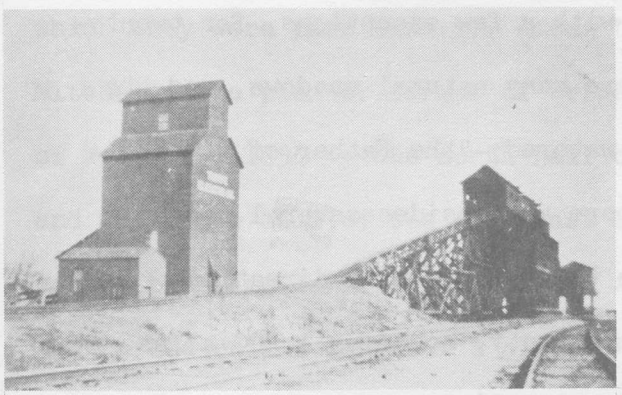
Home of Pappy Rice at Albright.



People's Union Store at Smith Lake.



Smith Lake Hotel.



Elevators and coal shed at Smith Lake.



Dist. 87. Smith Lake School.

TOWN OF MONTICELLO

The town of Monticello is township number 121, range 25; and the fractional township number 122, range 25, on the Mississippi river, about four sections; and the west fifteen sections. Monticello is situated in the northeast part of Wright county and is bounded on the north by the Mississippi, on the east by Otsego, on the south by Buffalo and on the west by Silver Creek and Maple Lake. The surface is nearly level and slightly rolling; not hilly or broken. About one-half of the town is prairie, the remainder brush land and timber. There was originally more prairie land in this town than in any in the county. The soil in the wooded and brush sections is the same as that of all timber land in the county- a deep, dark loam, with clay subsoil. The prairie land does not differ much, only in that sand and a hard gravelly subsoil in places marks its surface; but forms, however, the best farming land in the county. Monticello prairie has a better record for productiveness than any other prairie in the state, having produced, with a few exceptions, for twenty-six years, exceptionally good crops. There are many natural meadows, and the prairie produces good hay. The town is well watered; "the Father of waters" forming the northern boundary of the town; there are besides several creeks, the outlets to the many lakes, which traverse the town in many directions. Pelican lake, the largest body of water in the county, covering 1,200 acres, is partly in the south part of the town, in section 36, town 121, range 25, and section 30, town 121, range 24. Cedar Lake in section 30, comprises about 200 acres; Gilchrist's lake, in section 33; Gordon lake, in section 35; North lake in section 20; Long lake in section 16; Bertram lake, in section 17, and Bickers lake, in section 6, besides several smaller ones.

FIRST SETTLERS

The first actual settlers were H.W. McCrory and F.M.Cadwell who came to Monticello in October, 1852, and took claims just above the present site of Monticello and on each side of Mill creek; they continued to reside on their claim three or four years. F.M. Cadwell now resides on section 14, town of Albion. Herbert W. McCrory died in Kansas, April 1877. In April 1853, Ashley C. Riggs took a claim now in the townsite of Moritzious, or lower Monticello, where he still resides. G.W. Riggs came October 25, 1855. Wm. G. McCrory came in 1854, and settled in the village or townsite; he afterwards removed to Maple Lake, where he was interested in the townsite of Geneva. He was postmaster at Maple Lake for several years, and held most of the town offices at different times. In 1868, he moved to Monticello again, where he remained until his death in March, 1882. J.B. Rich came in July, 1854. S.M. McManus, Wm. Creighton and S.F. Creighton came the same year, and laid out the townsite of Monticello of which they were part owners. Among the farmers who came that year was Augustus Mitchell, the pioneer farmer of Wright county; he made his claim the 2nd day of November, 1854 -- the north half of the northwest quarter of section 28, and the north half of the northeast quarter of section 29. He continued to occupy the same land for 27 years. At that time, the land was not surveyed, and he had only a squatter's claim; he was the pioneer on the prairie and lived almost alone during the first year but by 1856, the land about him was nearly all taken. There have been many changes from the first settlr's time, but Mitchell still works the old claim, the best farm, in many respects in the county, and decidedly the best farm buildings. The pioneer farmer is prosperous, contented and happy, and is satisfied he hit the right place when he settled on Monticello prairie. In the spring of 1856, came A. Stuart, J.M. Vorhees, the Hanafords, Desmonds, D. Worthing, Joseph Brown , and many other

farmers. To the village in 1855 came Samuel Wilder, Thos Anderson, Nathan Fletcher, Geo. M. Berryman, John O. Haven, J.D. Taylor and many others. Monticello was about the only town in the county to work and organize; in 1856, about the first of September, a meeting was held by the citizens to take steps to organize a new county, and W.G. McCrory, S.T. Creighton and Samuel M. McManus were elected a committee to go to St. Paul and present the matter to the territorial legislature then in session. The action of that committee gave the name to the county, and shows how slight a circumstance may have a lasting name or effect on the future, and how very near we came to having to write the history of Seward county. The above committee started on their mission to St. Paul, and at Big Lake, in Sherburne county, took the Burbank stage for St. Paul. There was no road on the west side of the Mississippi river at that time. After getting aboard the stage, Mr. McCrory said, "Well, gentlemen, our people neglected to suggest a name for the new county last night; now, I have in New York state a very particlular politician friend whom I would much like to see honored by naming our county after him; it is true that he is a Whig, and you are both Democrats, but I hope that at this time you will lay aside all political animosities and agree to name the proposed new county Seward, in honor of the Hon Wm. H. Seward." His companions, however, would not hearken to any such proposal; political hatred is in many cases almost a deadly hatred, and Wm. H. Seward has as many bitter political enemies as any man ever had. So after talking awhile and finding no chance of succeeding, Mr. McCrory changed the course by saying; "There is another man in Orange, my native county in York, a personal friend of mine; you would probably have no objection to naming the new county after him, and give him a lasting name. He is a Democrat, not it is true, my political friend, but a man whom I greatly respect; he is the Hon. Silas Wright." Mc Manus and Creighton were willing, and on the old Burbank stage, below Anoka, Wright county was given its name.

If two Whigs instead of two democrats had been elected on the committee we should have Seward, instead of Wright county.

On the first day of February, 1858, the territorial legislature passed an act organizing Wright county, and John McDonald Senior, Archie Downie and J.D. Taylor were appointed by the governor the first board of county commissioners.

FIRST ORGANIZATION

The board of county commissioners met at Monticello, April 9, 1855, and Monticello was made the county seat by act of the legislature. The board proceeded to divide the county into precincts, Monticello precinct was bounded as follows: North by the Mississippi east by a line running due south from the northwest corner of L. Dinmick's claim to the south line of the county; south by the line of the county; west by a line running due south from the northwest quarter of J. O. Haven's claim to the south line of the county.

TOWN OF MONTICELLO

After the territory of Minnesota was changed to the State of Minnesota there was a change in the county organization, and the county was divided into towns. On the 6th day of April, 1858, the board of county commissioners met at Monticello and proceeded to divide the county into towns, and Monticello was given its present boundaries.

On the eleventh day of May, 1858, the first town meeting was held at Monticello and the following persons were elected town officers:

Supervisors - J.N. Barber, chairman; Wm. Irvine, Geo. W. Hamilton

Town clerk - A.F. Barker

Assesor - H.W. Fuller

Collector - W.S. Brookins

Treasurer - W.S. Brookins

Constable - C.W. Clary

Justice of the peace - Sam. Bennett

Overseer of the poor - Wm. Murch

During the hard times and actual suffering for the necessaries of life in other parts of the county in 1858 and 1859, Monticello was not much affected; large farms had been opened and cultivated, more crops of all kinds had been raised and the citizens were generally better prepared to live without money (as most of the settlers were obliged to) than any other citizens of the county.

MONTICELLO IN THE WAR OF THE UNION

From the first call for soldiers to the very last, Monticello was one of the most patriotic towns in the state, and furnished as many soldiers for the United States army as any town in the state according to the number of inhabitants. At the first call for men, a number of her citizens enlisted, and in almost every regiment of Minnesota volunteers, and almost all organizations of cavalry and artillery, Monticello men could be found; there was no draft in this town, and at every call for more men, Monticello was still ahead of her quota. No other town claims a share in the birth place of Co. "E", the following enlisted in other organizations in the army:

N. B. Spaulding, Captain, Co. "D", 1st regiment. Adelbert Bryant, H. H. Blake, James Bryant, G. W. Bartlett, Charles E. Baker, John Brown, Henry Brimingham. J. W. Chaffee, Enoch H. Chandler, A. W. Darling, Stephen Donnelly, Cyrus E. Eddy. Ammi B. Ferguson, John O. French, Levi Gerguson, A. A. Greinfenger, E. M. Hatch, John A. Haven, Wm. N. Green, Amos C. Jordan, Jervis W. Kendall; Co. "F", 2nd regiment, Wm. Desmond, Wm. Everett, N. H. Welderlee; Co. "A", 3rd regiment, D. W. C. Grant; Co. "G" 6th

regiment, Alonzo Coleman, John D. Rackliff, O. G. Gordman, John Klock, George Sabbath; 1st Battery, T. N. Jones; Co. "A", Hatch's Battalion, John Hamelin, James Harrington, Henry Elersher, Theo. Mtchtel; Co. "H" 3rd regiment, G. M. Bertram, C. Stokes; Co. "L" 3rd regiment, G. W. Brookins; Co. F. 4th regiment, Peter Columbus; Co. "C" M. M. Rangers, J. N. Stacy, Serg't; Co. "A" Hatch's Battallion, A. L. Flannigan, C. Franklin, James L. Jellison; Co. "D" Hatch's Battalion, J. A. Regan; 2nd Battery, W.A. Spalding. The above 48, with the 32 in Co. "E" of the 8th regiment making 80 soldiers from one town. Can any town show a better record with the same number of inhabitants?

THE INDIAN WAR OF 1862 AND 1863

Company "E" was organized on Aug. 12, 1862, and started for Fort Snelling to be mustered into the service of the United States. The 17th of Aug. 1862, the first murder by the Indians at Acton, Meeker county took place, followed the next day by the massacre along the Minnesota river; it was but a very short time before the refugees from Meeker county began to arrive at Monticello, and as they hastened through the towns of French Lake, Albion and Maple Lake, the frightful story was scattered through the big woods and the whole population poured into Monticello in one mass of the frightened or half crazed humanity. With the not very pleasant information that the big woods were full of Indians, burning, destroying and murdering everything and everybody, and in a very short time would be in Monticello, of course many of the worst frightened ones crossed the Mississippi river and went to St. Paul or Minneapolis; but the citizens of Monticello, or the bravest ones made a stand and

pursuaded the fugitives or a large part of them to remain in the village. That night, almost every citizen went armed; a strong guard was placed around the village, and most of the inhabitants passed a sleepless night, watching and waiting for a severe fight with the Indians. The next morning, confidence having been somewhat restored by the non-appearance of the redskins, they went to work to build a stockade around the large school house nearly in the center of the village, which took them several days, as it was quite an extensive work. Nearly all of the inhabitants of Buffalo, Chatham, the south part of Marysville, French Lake, Albion, Maple Lake and some from Silver Creek and Frankfort came to Monticello during the first two days of the Indian scare; the village was full, every dwelling house was packed; the citizens, one and all, were very liberal in filling their houses until they could hold no more; stables, barns, sheds, school house and halls and churches were full for nearly a month. Almost every day, some new rumor came that the big woods was full of Indians and the care was kept up; but as no Indians made their appearance, one after another of the bravest returned to their deserted homes, and in about six weeks quiet was restored, and the Indian scare was over for that year. About the 20th of June, 1863, the same scenes were enacted with less intensity. At the murder of the Dustin family the same hurried flight occurred: both years it was a severe tax on the liberality and generosity of the citizens of Monticello.

TOWN OF MONTICELLO

In September 1854, the Massachusetts colony, so called, consisting of Joseph Brown, Ira Hoar and sons, A. W. and William, Hoar, Mr. Perkins

and others, examined the Monticello prairie and selected claims on the south side, and most of them became actual settlers during that fall and the spring of 1855.

The first load of lumber brought into the town was by Joseph Brown in October, 1854, to build his house on section 26. After marking his claim, he went to St. Anthony and purchased a yoke of oxen, wagon and a load of lumber; arriving opposite the present village of Monticello, there was no ferry or boat to cross the river, and as it was quite low, he went up to the head of the island just above the village and attempted to ford. When nearly in the middle of the stream, one of the oxen became unyoked, and Mr. Brown got into the river and unyoked the other ox, and they swam ashore. In the meantime, the swift current had carried the wagon and lumber into deeper water, it was overturned and the lumber spilled. Brown being a good swimmer and full of energy and pluck, stuck to the wagon and by hard work landed it safe on the sand bar. He then went for the lumber and by swimming out into the river many times, succeeded in landing the whole load on the west side of the river at various places between the island and Battle Rapids, two miles below. It was no small job the next day to hunt up the stray oxen, get the wagon out of the river and gather up that lumber and carry it up the bank, one board at a time, for a distance along the river of nearly two miles.

The first plowing or breaking was done in town by Lewis Stone, in July 1855, on section 19, about twelve acres. The same team broke ten acres in August in the same year on section 12 for A. C. Riggs. But there was considerable breaking done that year, most of it done quite late, as farmers did not know then that prairie land should be broken in June

or the first part of July; it was not understood by the eastern men who first settled on the prairie. Farming in this county at that time or up to 1864 and 1865, was quite a different thing from what it is at the present time. The money men, the enterprising, energetic farmers were the ones who made failures, and the wrecks of such farms are seen in almost every town in this section of the state. Monticello had its enterprising farmers, men who invested their money in stock, tools, farm machinery and labor, and then never saw their money again. One of the most enterprising and the largest farmer in town was J. W. Voorhiss who took a claim in 1855, on section 28. His was the model farm, he was the boss farmer, and employed a number of men, owned several teams, invested largely in farm machinery and cultivated many acres. There are men now living on the prairie who hauled wheat to Minneapolis in the fall and winter of 1858, he did not get money enough to pay for hauling to market. The same thing took place in several of these first years with those enterprising farmers. First came the loss of all cash invested, then mortgages in hopes of better price, then a foreclosure and general smash up and loss of all. Another farmer who had got tired of raising wheat at a loss, tried corp and hogs. In the fall of 1859, he took a load of pork to Minneapolis, then to St. Paul, and sold it at two cents per pound, and paid three cents per pound for salt to salt the balance of his pork; that is, he gave three pounds of pork for two of salt. Of course, such prices only run the producers in debt and had to be abandoned. The men who only cultivated their farms simply to make a living, were the ones who saved their farms, until the railroads were completed and a way opened to ship the surplus products. Is it any wonder that the farmers of 1858,

were in favor of the $5,000,000 loan bill, or of land grants to railroads, without which it was almost impossible to build them, and without railroads farming in this part of the state was a complete failure?

TOWNSITES - VILLAGES

Ashly C. Riggs was a soldier in the U. S. army and helped move the Winnebago Indians from Wisconsin to their reservation in Minnesota, in 1849, with head quarters at Long Prairie, now Todd county. As that reservation extended over what is now Wright county, Mr. Riggs had looked over the land on the west side of the Mississippi river, and had spied out the Monticello prairie, and as it suited him, he made up his mind that as soon as the Winnebagos were removed from this reservation and his term of service had expired, to locate in this land of promise; and as townsites were the order of the day, he proposed to lay out a town. The Winnebagos having been removed to Blue Earth county, and this part of the reservation having been thrown open to settlement, and his term of service having expired the first of September 1854, found him looking up his new townsite, having selected what is now known as lower Monticello, in section 12, and finding it necessary to establish a ferry he went to the U. S. land office at Sauk Rapids, the 10th of September, to purchase a piece of land on the east side of the river for a ferry landing. East of the Mississippi the land had been surveyed and was for sale. The west side was not surveyed until the winter of 1855-56. The fraction that Mr. Riggs wanted for a ferry landing was 26 acres, but at the land office this fraction was attached to a 40 acre lot making 67 acres. Mr. Riggs found that he was short of gold to purchase the whole, and as there were a large number of land buyers and speculators about the land office, they had used

up all the gold at Sauk Rapids, and Mr. Riggs could not get his bills changed, so he returned to Brown's at Big Lake for the gold. Next day he returned to Sauk Rapids and was informed by the land officers that a man by the name of Moritzious Weisburger had entered the 67 acres that he wanted. He went to the hotel and found Mr. Weisburger, who refused to give up the land or sell it, but consented to go to Big Lake with Mr. Riggs and look at the land which he had never seen, but only bought it because Mr. Riggs was looking after it and thought it must be valuable. The land was looked over by the two men then they crossed the river and looked at the proposed townsite, and a trade was made, a co-partnership formed, Mr. Weisburger giving Mr. Riggs a deed of one-half of the 67 acres and two hundred dollars for a half interest in the new town and naming it Moritzious. Mr. Weisburger went to St. Anthony and sent up a surveyor, Samuel M. McManus from Ohio, and other men to survey and lay out the town. About 100 acres were included in the townsite running from the head of the island in section 11 at right angles with the river back into the prairie 140 rods. About 40 acres of the original survey is now the townsite of Monticello, the U. S. survey having cut down Moritzious to land in section 12. The town plat was filed in the land office at Sauk Rapids in October 1854.

Mr. Weisburger went to Boston, California, and other parts of the world and did not visit the town again for two or three years. He was of a roving disposition and in many things very excentric, claimed to be and probably was a Hungarian refugee and came to the United States with the celebrated Louis Kossuth, and belonged to a wealthy aristocrat family in Hungary.

TOWN OF MONTICELLO

After finishing the survey of the townsite of Moritzious, S. M. McManus returned to St. Paul; but in a few days, returned with two acquaintances from Ohio, Thomas S. and William Creighton. Just above the townsite of Moritzious and what is now the village of Monticello was the claim of William Proctor. McManus and the Creighton brothers purchased the Proctor claim, and with other lands surveyed and platted about 300 acres and named it Monticello. The town plat was filed in the land office at Sauk Rapids in November 1854. This new town immediately took the lead, stores were started, a postoffice established, mills commenced and almost all kinds of business established in a very short time, and within the first years, Monticello became the county seat of Wright county, Moritzious did not make much of a show, and to many it may seem strange, as the resident proprietor was a busy, active man that A. C. Riggs should spend most of the winter of 1855 at St. Paul working for the establishment of Wright county and the location of the county seat at Moritzious and then have the county seat located at Monticello, but such is the fact. Somebody was too sharp for him, or it may be that this was one of the many games played to get clear of Weisburger, and Moritzious did not want much notoriety until that was accomplished. The long legal war that ran on for several years between the original town proprietors of Moritzious and Monticello, about sixty different cases, are not necessary to be recorded in this history. They were settled by judge and jury in part, and partly by compromise on the part of A. C. Riggs and Z. M. Brown, and Moritzious. Weisburger was left out. During

these lawsuits, Moritzious took the name of lower Monticello, but the former is the present legal name of the townsite.

A large steam saw mill was built in 1856, just above the lower ferry in Moritzious, with a 60 horse power engine and all of the improved machinery known at that time, a sash saw and one circular saw shingle and lath machines, edgers and turning lathes; the proprietors were Elisha Steele, H. H. Helm, J. D. Taylor, A. C. and C. W. Riggs. The saw mill did a good business; a flouring mill was completed and ready to run in August, 1858, but the whole establishment was burned about the first of September, 1858. The flouring mill never did work, there was no insurance, and it was a total loss and has never been rebuilt. In Monticello, in the summer of 1855, a steam saw mill was built by Z. M. Brown, T. S. and William Creighton on the bank of the Mississippi; the power was a 60 horse power engine. This mill had a circular saw, edger, shingle and lath mill, and for many years supplied the surrounding country with lumber. T. G. Mealey purchased a one-third interest in December, 1855. Charles King purchased the Creighton brothers' interest in March, 1857, and in 1860, sold to Z. M. Brown and in 1862, Mr. Freeman bought a share, and Brown and Freeman ran the mill until in 1870, when Fred. Hitter became the owner. The mill has not been running for four years.

GRIST MILLS

A grain elevator was built in Monticello in 1872, C. W. Clary and Henry Bliss, proprietors. The elevator did a good business for one or two years. Mr. Clary sold out to the Mitchell brothers in 1874, and they changed the elevator to a grist mill on a small scale. Charles

Hoag and Aaron Hoag of Hassan, Hennepin county, purchased an interest in the mill in 1876. In 1877, Mr. Nowack became the owner and the property became involved in several lawsuits and burned in 1878. In 1874, William Tubbs and Mrs. Staples built a grist mill in Monticello at mill creek, about one-half mile above the village where there is a good water power. King Staples owned an interest in the mill in 1876, and in 1878, John Tennison became the proprietor, and soon after the mill was burned. In 1880, Messrs. Januey and son purchased the mill site and built a flouring mill 35 by 45 feet, 3½ stories high; they have a water power sufficient to run three sets of burrs, one feed run and two sets of rollers eight months of the year; they have a 35 horse power engine, and use steam power when there is a lack of water. The Monticello flour mill is a model mill and is doing a good business, and the Januey's are men of enterprise and energy, and have made it a success.

STORES

J. C. Beekman established the first store in Monticello, in the spring of 1855. In 1856, J. F. Bradley built a large store building near the ferry at Moritzious, and Mr. Beekman removed his store to that place on account of larger store room. C. W. Clary also had a store at Moritzious in 1856. George Wright also opened a large hardware store the same year at Moritzious. James Thomas Chambers opened a store at Monticello, in the spring of 1856. T. G. Mealey is one of the pioneer store keepers in Monticello. He came here in November, 1855, became part owner in the saw mill and in company with Z. M. Brown opened a general store; he has had several partners in the store business, and now Mealey and son have one of the larges and best

filled stores in the county. Martin Fox, J. G. Smith and H. F. Lillibridge have been amongst the pioneer merchants of Monticello. The present general stores are T. G. Mealey, George Gray, Kreis and Tennison, B. F. Herrick, W. P. Kinkle, J. R. Longfello and Fred Hitter.

Sam. E. Adams came to Monticello in December 1855, and in 1856 commenced business in a grocery store. In 1866, he opened a large drug store; he has other business and Mr. Daniel Gray has managed the drug store since 1870; it is not only a drug store, but paints and oils and fancy articles and notions are kept for sale; it is in every respect the most complete store and largest stock of the kind in Wright county. A. F. Barker opened his model drug store in 1869; he not only keeps drugs and medicines, but a large stock of notions and fancy articles, and his store is the musical headquarters of this part of the county. All kinds of business is well represented in Monticello. Kreis and Adams are the leading hardware dealers, H. W. Brookins and John Luthy, harness makers; John Swain, furniture and lumber; E. Wetzel, watchmaker and jeweler, and many others.

HOTELS

In 1856, William Chandler built a hotel in Monticello, and it was named the Chandler house. In 1857, T. G. Mealey and Brown and Creighton purchased the hotel and made a $3,000 addition, and named it the Jefferson house; Samuel Bennett was the landlord. C. A. Payson, L. C. Perkins and W. V. B. Moore were the landlords. The house was sold to W. V. B. Moore, and burned in October 1867. In 1870, Henry Brasie purchased the hotel site and erected a new hotel, naming it the Monticello house; after Henry

Brasie came Mr. Baldwin, then the hotel was sold to C. C. Jackson and somewhat changed, and the name changed to the Merchants' hotel; the present proprietor is S. C. Strout, and the Merchants' is a first class house in a small way.

FERRY

The first ferry established across the Mississippi was in the spring of 1855, at Moritzious by A. C. Riggs; it has never changed onwers and has always been in running order to the present time, and is doing a good business. J. F. Gallow established a ferry at Monticello in 1856, and it has been to the present time a paying institution.

TOWN OF MONTICELLO

One of the old institutions of Moritzious was the large hotel near the ferry named the Monticello House, built in 1856, by Samuel Cross, and kept by him until 1861. For some reason or other, it did not pay, and the building was sold to C. B. Jordon, taken down and moved to Greenleaf, Meeker county, and used for a U. S. Land office. Mr. Cross removed to Minneapolis, and in 1866 fell down the stairs at Woodman's hall and broke his neck. Another hotel was built in Monticello in 1873, by Isaac Bailey, named the "Central House". George N. Riggs was the landlord for several years. The house is now kept by the proprietor Isaac Bailey.

NEWSPAPERS

The Monticello Times was first issued in June, 1857. C. M. Kenton, editor and proprietor. The Times was a six column weekly, Democratic in politics. Although the Times was a very respectable sheet, but the county

being sparsely settled, the paper had a very small list of subscribers, and the county and legal printing did not amount to much, and the same with advertising, so in 1858, when almost all business closed up, the Times suspended. C. M. Kenton sold the office and material to Z. M. Brown. In 1859, Mr. George Gray came to Monticello he was a printer and had worked for about a year on the St. Anthony Express, edited by Isaac Atwater, afterwards Judge Atwater. Mr. Gray purchased the office, stock and material of the defunct Times from Mr. Brown and commenced the publication of the Wright County Republican. The new paper was Republican in politics, and was in many respects an improvement on the Monticello Times. From 1859 to 1864, the paper was well conducted and very respectable in size and appearance, but did not receive sufficient support to enable it to go on, so the paper was reduced and its name changed to the Northern Statesman. It was a small paper and had a small circulation. In 1871, Mr. Gray sold the Statesman to T. A. Perrine, and he enlarged the paper and changed it to the Wright County Times. Mr. Perrine was an enterprising publisher and an interesting and able editor, and the Times soon ranked as one of the best county newspapers in the state. In 1878, Perrine sold the paper to Fisher and Kling, but it was not Perrine's paper after that date, and was not a success. The office and material was purchased by Col. S. E. Adams in 1880, who conducted the paper for nearly two years, making the Times a first class family progressive newspaper. The Times at the present is owned and edited by G. W. McDonald. Through all of the changes since 1859, the Times has been Republican in politics, and a good paper for local affairs and generally up with the times.

SCHOOLS

The town of Monticello, and more especially the village, has been and still is noted for good schools. In 1855, the first school in the town, and the first in the county was taught by Miss Maggie Brooks. A school house was built in 1856. In 1857, the large school house or academy, 40 by 40 feet and two stories high, was erected at that time and for several years it was the largest and most expensive school building in the state west of the Mississippi; it was many years before the city of Minneapolis had a school house equal to the Monticello academy. As long as Monticello was the county seat, or until 1868, the building was used for a court house. The county jail near the school house has been noticed, and its history given in the county history.

CHURCHES

The Methodist Episcopal church was the first organized in the town, and was one of the finest in the county. The first services held was in the spring of 1855; preaching was had regularly through the year of 1856, and a church organized. At the regular meeting of the trustees held April 28, 1857, Z. M. Brown was elected president, and Samuel Wilder, clerk. Board of trustees -- Z. M. Brown, J. F. Gallow, E. W. Merrill, Ira Keene, Wm. Brown, J. C. Wilson and Samuel Wilder. May 1, 1857 at a meeting of the board of trustees it was voted to erect a church building on lots 9 and 10 in block 10. The building committee appointed were J. E. Gallow, J. C. Wilson and Ira Keene. Merrit and Gallow, builders. The church was finished that year, and dedicated October 1, 1857. The original

cost of the building was $3,000. The building was rebuilt in 1880, and remodeled and rededicated Jan. 1, 1881, at a cost of $2,100. It is one of the largest and best finished and furnished churches in the county. This society has always been strong, united, an active working church, a large congregation and large membership. In 1868 and 1869, quite a number of the members of this church joined the Second Advent Christian church, following the leadership of Rev. L. C. Collins, a former Methodist minister; but it did not affect the Methodist church. In a short time the pioneer church was stronger than ever.

The Congregational church is the next oldest. The church records show the first organization in town. The first minister was Rev. J. C. Whitney, now of Minneapolis. The church was organized January 13, 1856. Mr. Whitney was a Presbyterian minister, but at the organization of the church, he submitted the matter of denominational name to the member of the church; 22 members voted, 14 for Congregational form of church government, and 8 for the Presbyterian. So the church was called Congregational. The members also voted to adopt the creed and articles of faith of the Presbyterian church. So this seems to be a compromise Union church. A. W. Wood was elected clerk. In 1856, a church building was finished, 26 by 50 feet, and in 1865, 15 feet was added, making the present church 26 by 65 feet. A fine parsonage was built in 1882. The congregation is quite large, the membership 43. The present pastor is Rev. A. A. Hurd. Many of the most substantial farmers and business men are members of the Congregational church; New Englanders, as this is a New England institution. The church is solid, substantial and prosperous.

The Baptist church was organized in the spring of 1856. Rev. Mr. Weeks was the first pastor. For several years, they worshipped in the Congregational church. In 1875, they built a house of worship, 30 by 50 feet. The house is well finished and furnished, and the society and church is strong and prosperous. Rev. Mr. Blowers is the present pastor; membership, 50.

The Advent Christian church was organized in May 1868. The first pastor was Rev. L. C. Collins; the meeting house was built in 1869, 50 by 76 feet, one of the largest churches in the county, costing about $4,500, and furnishing $500. Mr. William Chandler, an old resident, contributed quite a large share of the expenses of the house and the lots. Rev. S. Welcome was the next pastor; then the present pastor, A. J. Bolster; membership, 55.

Moritzious has no churches, but for several years has been the headquarters of the Mormons, or church of the latter day saints of the state of Minnesota. The missionaries meet here, compare notes and go forth into all parts of the state. Sometime, a score or more make this their stopping place, and the converts to the church meet here and start for Utah. But Monticello is noted for being a moral and religious town, all churches and moral societies are well supported.

SOCIETIES

The Good Templars and other temperance societies have always had an existance in Monticello since the organization of the town; and the temperance or anti-saloon sentiment has been predominent during the whole life of the town, or since 1854. Saloons and drinking places have had

but a poor show, and have generally been short lived. In 1858, Hull Hotchkiss hired a store and started a saloon and liquor store against the expressed wishes of a very large majority of the citizens, and without license or countenance of but a very few. At that time, public opinion was altogether opposed to any saloon. Hotchkiss was warned, remonstrated with and notified by the whole community that he could not sell intoxicating liquors in Monticello. But it did no good; he went on and got in a large stock of liquors of all kinds, almost a wholesale establishment, besides a saloon. For a short time all went well. But the best regulated saloon will soon have rows and fights and become a nuisance, and Hotchkiss with all of his pretended order and sobriety was no exception. So one night about 12 o'clock, after his noisy customers had all left a number of "Indians" or persons disguised as Indians, made him a sudden call, and while two burly red skins held the proprietor as in a vice, the balance of the party, a dozen or more, proceeded to destroy the liquor. Barrels, kegs, demijohns and bottles were smashed and the liquor turned out and not a drop was left. Hotchkiss claims that about $800 worth of liquor was destroyed. The establishment was never opened again, and the owner left Monticello. The threatened suit for damages never came to trial, and it is known only by those engaged who the raiders were; but it settled the matter of liquor selling in Monticello for many years.

Monticello Lodge, No. 16, A. F. and A. M. was organized A. D. 1856, on the 13th day of September. The officers elected were: S. J. Mason, W. M.; Sam. E. Adams, S. W. ; Thomas Chambers, J. W. ; E. W. Merrill, Secretary and Chaplain; H. H. Helm, Treasurer; Appointed officers, George M. Bertram, S. D.; Ira Keene, J. D. ; Joseph Nelson, Tyler.

The lodge purchased twc lots on Broadway several years ago, but have never owned a hall, but have a good rented hall, well furnished, and as a society are strong and prosperous.

Monticello Grange, P. of H., No. 11, was organized March 12, 1869, by O. H. Kelly, Secretary of the National Grange. Sam. E. Adams was elected Master, and J. B. Parvin, Secretary. This is the only live grange in the county, and has always been a working grange. Nearly all of the farmers on Monticello prairie are members. The meetings are held regularly, and the society has been a great help to the farmers.

POSTOFFICES

A postoffice was established at Monticello in September, 1853, with James C. Beekman as postmaster. The office has been held by Thomas Chambers, W. C. Williams, S. E. Adams, A. F. Barker, G. W. Gerrish, and the present P. M., Charles E. Kreis.

The townsite of Manhattan was surveyed and platted in 1856, it was located on the Mississippi, about two miles below Moritzious. The town shares and lots were in the market during the townsite speculation of 1856 and 1857, but there was not much else done with the townsite. One or two buildings were put up, but it was never entered as a townsite and came to an end about 1858.

Wright City was another townsite laid out in 1857, in section 17, on the shore of Bertram's lake, owned by G. M. Bertram and others. This new town was a competitor for the county seat in 1859, and was defected and died soon afterwards.

RAILROADS

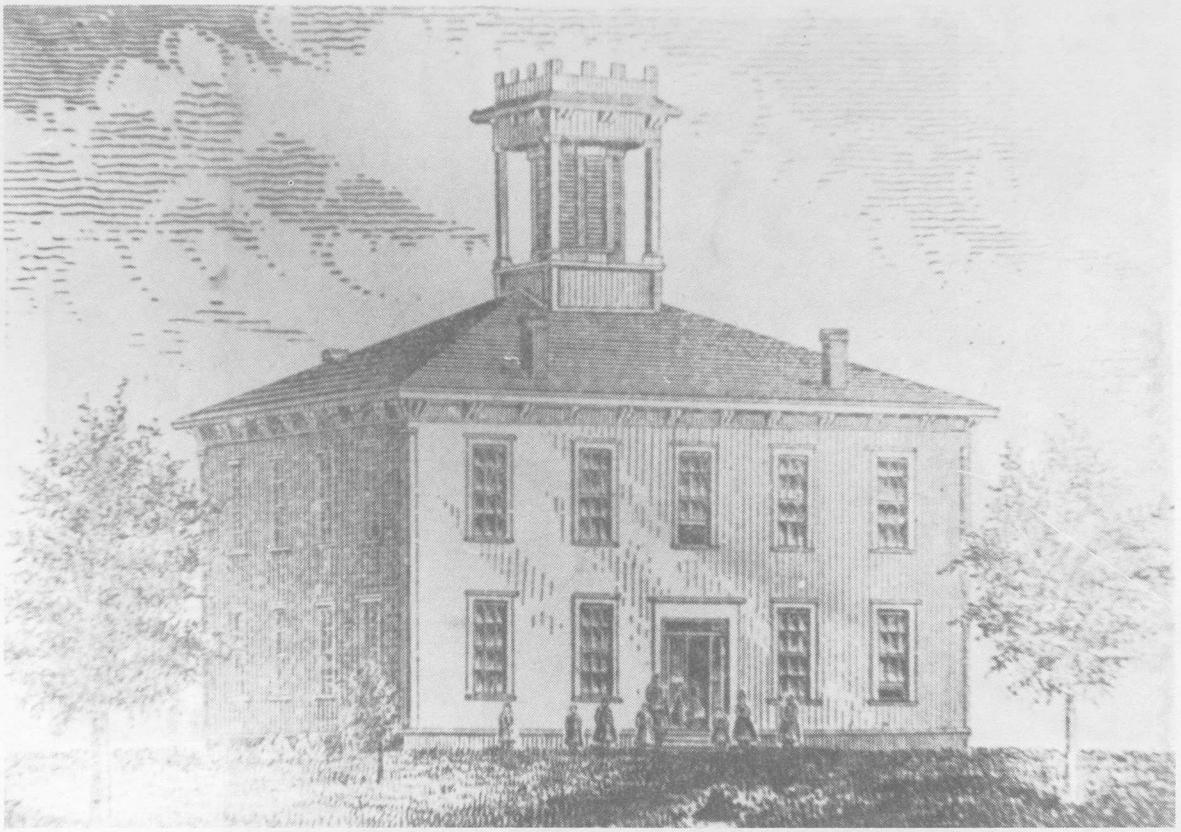
From 1866 to January 1882, the branch line of the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba road, with station at Big Lake in Sherburne county, was used by the citizens of Monticello. But the same company having built a line through the east and north part of Wright county, and through the village of Monticello, the town now has all needed railroad facilities, and the village has taken a new start, and trade and commerce is prospering.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

The agricultural reports of 1880 show that the town of Monticello produced: Wheat, 4,369 acres; oats, 695 acres; corn 677 acres; barly, 19 acres; rye, 45 acres; buckwheat, 5 acres; potatoes, 80 acres; cultivated hay, 538 tons; apple trees growing, 3,473; apple trees bearing, 1,533; milch cows, 262; sheep, 722; hogs, 166; horses, 238; farms,97.

POPULATION BY U.S. AND STATE CENSUS

In 1860, 753; 1865, 693; 1879, 903; 1875, 913; 1880, township including village, 1,010; Moritzious village, 104; Monticello village, 290.



Monticello Academy building established in 1856.

People's Store in Monticello. The Wright County Times office was on the second floor.





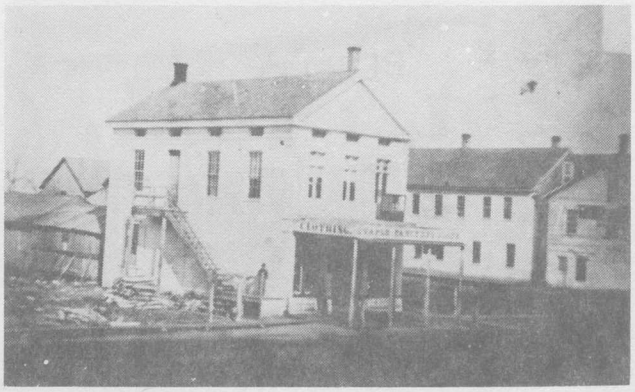


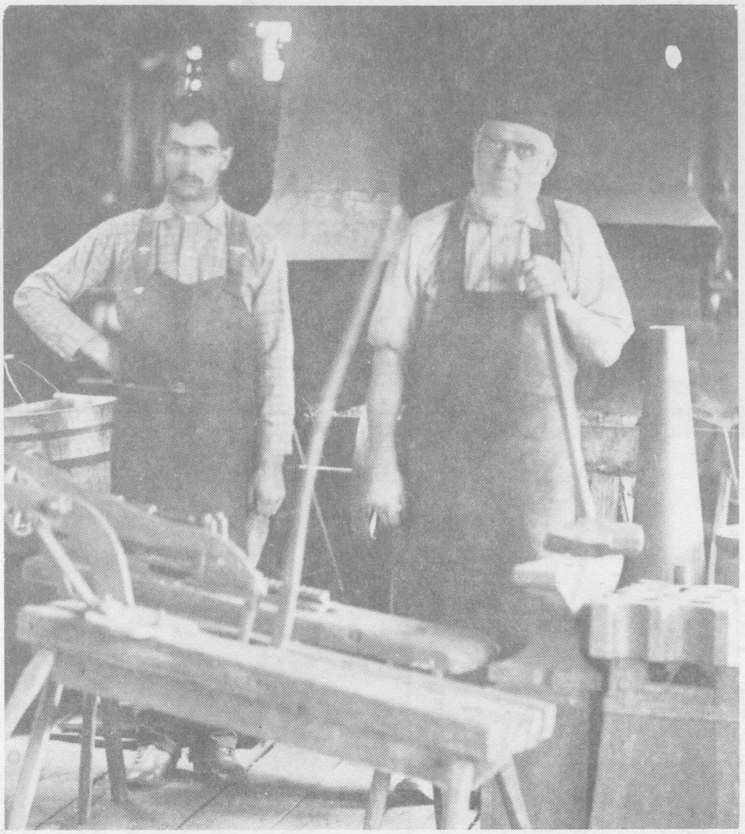
Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church of Monticello organized in 1855.

Monticello in 1870.

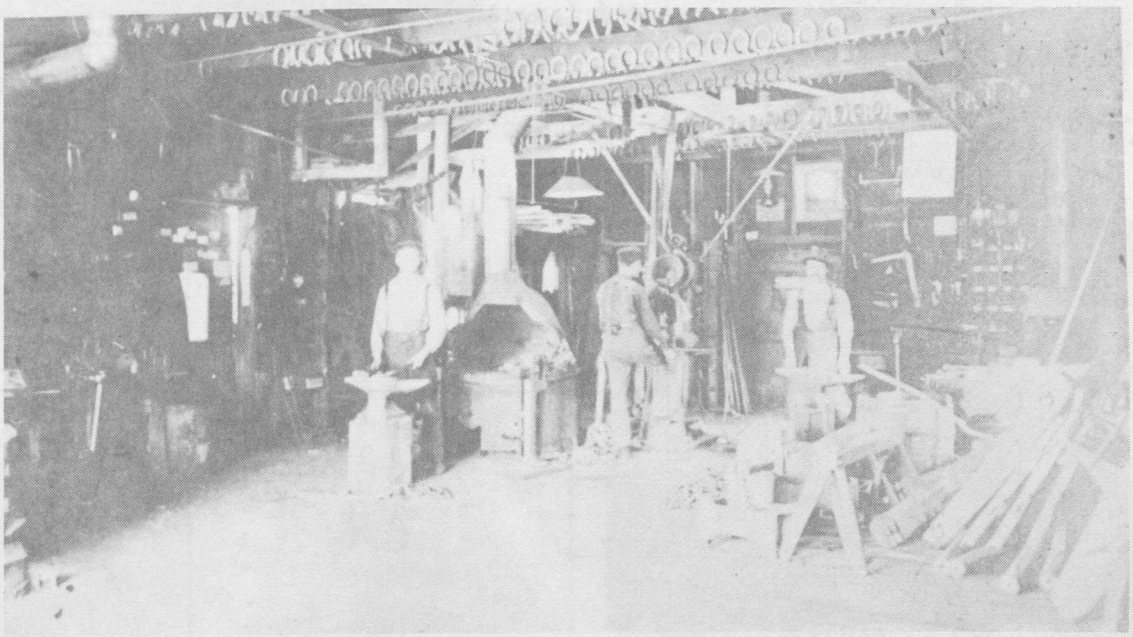


Monticello in 1865.





George Washington Magoon Drake in his blacksmith shop in Monticello.



Interior of the Drake Blacksmith Shop.



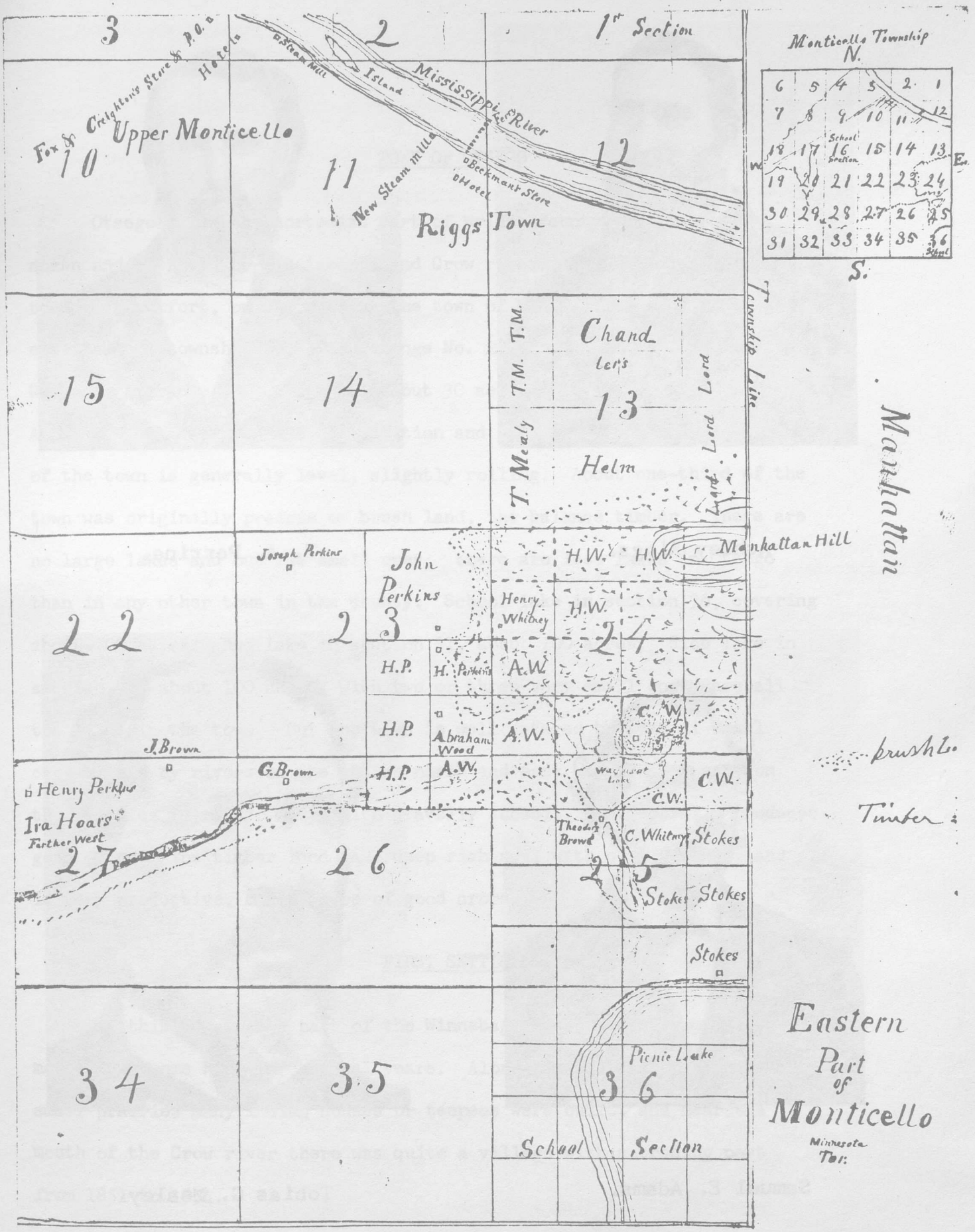
Logging operations on the Mississippi River near Monticello.



Wannigans and cooks which followed the loggers.

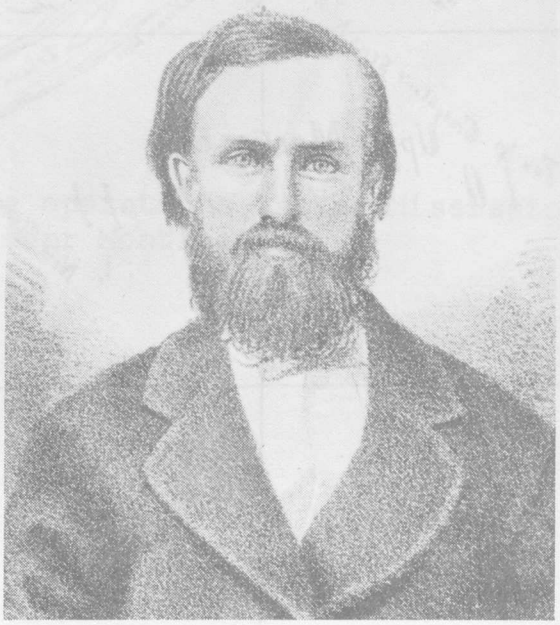


Helm Hill Cemetary.


3
2
1st Section
Fox & Creighton's Store & P.O.
Hotel
Steam Mill
Island
Mississippi River
Upper Monticello
10
11
12
New Steam mills
Beckman's Store
Hotel
Riggs Town
Monticello Township
N.
S.
School Section
Township Line
15
14
T.M.
Chand
ler's
13
T. Mealy
Helm
Lord
Manhattan
Manhattan Hill
22
Joseph Perkins
John Perkins
3
2
H.W.
Henry Whitney
H.W.
24
H.P.
H. Perkins
A.W.
H.P.
Abraham Wood
A.W.
C.W.
J. Brown
G. Brown
H.P.
A.W.
Wachusett Lake
C.W.
C.W.
Henry Perkins
Ira Hoar's
Farther West
27
26
Theodore Brown
C. Whitney
Stokes
25
Stokes
Stokes
Stokes
brush L.
Timber
Picnic Lake
34
35
36
School Section
Eastern
Part
of
Monticello
Minnesota
Ter.



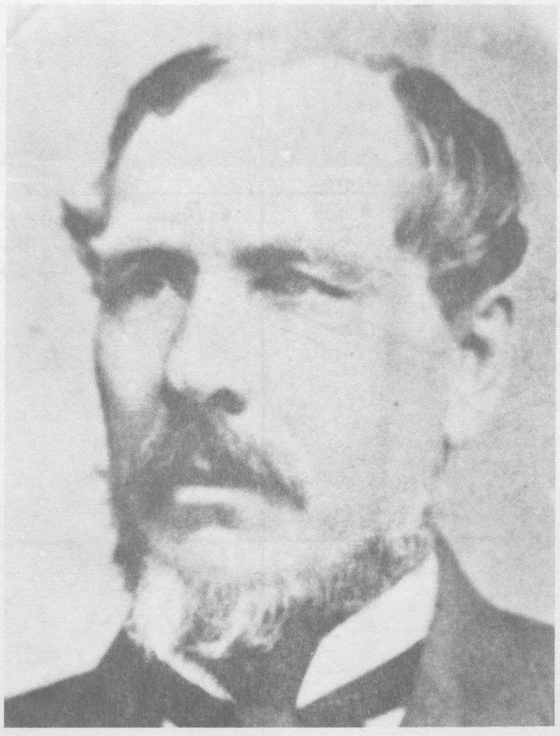
Ashley Riggs.



T. A. Perrine.



Samuel E. Adams.



Tobias G. Mealey.

TOWN OF OTSEGO

Otsego is in the northeast part of Wright county, bounded on the north and east by the Mississippi and Crow rivers, on the south by the town of Frankfort, on the west by the town of Monticello. It is the east half of township No. 121 of range No. 24, and the fraction township No. 121, of range No. 23, in all about 30 sections or about 20,000 acres. About 8,000 acres are under cultivation and natural meadows. The surface of the town is generally level, slightly rolling. About one-third of the town was originally prairie or brush land, the balance timber. There are no large lakes and but few small ones; there are less lakes in Otsego than in any other town in the county. School lake in section 36, covering about 200 acres; Mud Lake in section 31, about 100 acres; Rice lake in section 34, about 100 acres, with two or three very small ones, are all the lakes in the town. But the town is well watered by several small creeks, and by rivers on the entire north and east sides. The soil on the prairies is rather sandy with gravelly subsoil, but generally produces good crops. The timber land is a deep rich soil with clay subsoil, and is very productive, always sure of good crops.

FIRST SETTLERS

As this town was a part of the Winnebago Reservation, some of them made their home here for several years. Along the Mississippi and on the small prairies many Indian houses or teepees were built, and near the mouth of the Crow river there was quite a village with a trading post from 1851 to 1854.

A party of the Swiss, Scotch and Irish emigrants from the Selkirk settlements, now Manitoba, settled here in the fall of 1836, near the mouth of Crow river in the town of Otsego. They were the pioneer farmers and stock raisers in Minnesota. After stopping here two winters and one summer, they removed to a location nearer Fort Snelling, on account of the warlike attitude of the Sioux Indians. The remnants of glass, pottery and iron dug up at the defunct city of Northwood near the mouth of Crow river in 1855, is not a mystery, they were left there by those Scotch emigrants 20 years before that time, when they came from the Selkirk settlement.

But before the Indians, (Winnebagoes, Sioux or Chippewas), were that mysterious race, the Mound Builders. Near this place are many mounds, although they are not found along the banks of the Mississippi. The Crow seems to have been a favorite. Here they had their dwellings, and along its banks they built their Temple Mounds, and it seems that the sacred fires were always kept burning. As the Ancient Druids went by threes in everything, three pillars in a row and no more; three windows in their temples, three signs with hand, three bows; their feasts three days, their fasts three days, so these ancient Mound builders always had three mounds in a row. They are here near the mouth of Crow river and along its banks through the towns of Frankfort and Rockford in Wright county, and Dayton, Hassan and Greenwood in Hennepin county.

THE FIRST WHITE SETTLERS

The first white permanent settlers in Otsego and the first in Wright county were John McDonald Sen. and David McPherson; they came into the town about the same date, the 31st day of July, 1852. Mr. McPherson

remained here but two or three years, then went to Pikes Peak, Colorado. John McDonald, who was the first actual settler, was born in Standish, Cumberland county, State of Maine, June 5, 1806; he is a millwright by trade, and came to St. Anthony the 25th day of December 1847, and in company with Caleb Dorr, Ard. Godfrey, George Forbes and W. A. Cheever and others helped put in the first stick of timber in the first dam built at St. Anthony Falls. His first work in the territory was repairing the old government saw mill on the west side of the river, so as to saw out the lumber for a flat boat. Mr. McDonald taught school during the winter of 1850 and 1851, in St. Anthony, and worked at the millwright trade until July 1852. On the 31st day of that month he and his wife went up the river and took a claim in section 17, township 121, range 23, where they now reside. No other settlers came for nearly a year; their visitors were the Winnebagoes, and they called very often during the first two years. The next settlers were Charles Laplant, Samuel Carrick, Caleb Chase, Alvan Cooley, D. L. Ingersoll, Archie Downie, Otis T. True, Dudly P. Chase, Ezra Tubbs, Josiah B. Locke; next came Henry Heap, Phillip Boyden and A. J. Wood.

FIRST ORGANIZATION

The board of county commissioners of Wright county held their first meeting at Monticello, April 9, 1855; the board consisted of John McDonald Sen., Archie Downie and J. D. Taylor. They proceeded to divide the county into precincts. Pleasant Grove precinct was bounded as follows: On the west by a line running due south from the northwest corner of Dinmick's claim to the south line of the county; east and south by Crow river; north by the Mississippi river. In Pleasant Grove precinct, the place designated to hold elections was the dwelling house of John McDonald.

As judges of the election were appointed, Ezra Tubbs, Charles Lambert and Caleb Chase. John McDonald and Ezra Tubbs were appointed justices of the peace. William Carsly and Otis T. True were appointed constables. Archie Downie, Josiah B. Locke and D. L. Ingersoll were appointed assessors.

The first school district in the county was organized in Otsego, Pleasant Grove district No. 1, Dudly P. Chase, school agent. The first school house was built in October 1855, Margaret Cooley, teacher.

ROADS

At the meeting of the board of county commissioners held July 2, 1855, a petition was received for a county road from Waterville at the mouth of Crow river, through the town of Otsego to Monticello; this was the first county road. The petition was granted and Phillip Boyde, D. L. Ingersoll and the county surveyor were appointed a committee to meet at the house of John McDonald on the 16th day of July and lay out the road. At the same meeting a petition was received for a county road from John McDonald's landing across the county to Crow river, near Bigelows, now the old townsite of Hassan. The petition was signed by Henry Bradley, Henry Heap, Phillip Boyden and others; it was granted, and Henry Bradley and the county surveyor were appointed a committee to lay out the road.

GRASSHOPPERS

Quite large clearings had been made in the timber, and farms opened and cultivated on the prairie as early as 1856. Wheat, rye, oats, barley and corn were cultivated in quite large quantities for that early date, so that the advent of the grasshoppers on the 20th of August 1856, was of more consequence to Otsego than some other towns. The wheat was nearly

all eaten up; the same with corn, potatoes and nearly all garden vegetables. Oats, rye and barley were trimmed, but the stalks were nearly ripe and so hard that the hoppers left them, and most of it was saved. In the spring of 1857, the young hoppers made a clean sweep of everything until about the first of July when they left. About half a crop of late planted corn, potatoes and other vegetables was raised that year. Of course, the grasshopper plague quite discouraged many farmers, and some sold out and left the town; and many left their claims without selling. Not only was the grasshopper plague a serious loss in general wealth and prosperity, but it retarded the settlement of the town for several years.

TOWN ORGANIZATION

On the 6th of April, '58, when the board of county commissioners divided the county into towns, Otsego was given its present boundaries. The first town meeting was held at the house of John McDonald, May 11, 1858. The question of naming the town was submitted to the voters. A large number were in favor of the old precinct name, Pleasant Grove, but the New Yorkers were in a majority and Otsego was the winning name - from Otsego in the state of New York. At the town meeting, the following were elected town officers:

Supervisors	-	Thos. Ham, chairman, Phillip Boyden, T. P. Record.
Town clerk	-	Charles Lambert
Assessor	-	John McDonald
Treasurer	-	William Barnard
Justices of the Peace	-	Israel Record, C. B. Jordan
Constables	-	Luther Tubbs, Phillip Boyden

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

The first white child born in the town was Norman McPherson, son of David McPherson, born April 18, 1853, and was the first born in Wright county.

The first marriage was that of Louis McDonald and Miss Clemina Spencer, married December 25, 1856, by O. H. Kelley, justice of the peace.

The first death was a child of Rev. O. P. Light, May 1856.

VILLAGES AND TOWNSITES - WATERVILLE

In the spring of 1854, Mr. John K. Aydt and Charles Aydt purchased the right to a claim on section 36 at the mouth of Crow river and built a house and established a ferry, and laid out a town, in Otsego, and named the new town Waterville. Charles Aydt resided there nearly two years and ran the ferry, but the village did not flourish. He sold a part of the townsite in 1856, to Robinson & Baxter, and they laid out the town of Portland, mostly in Hennepin county, but on both sides of the Crow river, and as Waterville had not been surveyed or platted, nor entered as a townsite, it died and was known no more.

NORTHWOOD

This town was commenced in April 1856, on the Mississippi, and about one mile above the mouth of Crow river, on section 36. About 300 acres were surveyed and platted on claims taken by O. H. Kelly and Charles Kelly. By much energy, industry and advertising, Northwood became very soon a noted town; a large hotel was built, a store and a good school house was finished that year, and a school commenced and a postoffice established,

with Chas. Kelly, postmaster. During the winter of 1856 and '57, mail routes were established, running from Northwood to St. Cloud, from Northwood to St. Paul, from Northwood to St. Peter, and to Watertown in Carver county. On the last named route, the contract for carrying the mails was let to the well known and somewhat excentric Col. Alex, Armstrong, who was mail carrier for several years. The route was changed to Dayton after the death of Northwood. Ezra B. Ames was the pioneer merchant at Northwood. The store building and school house were finally burned. The only manufactory established at Northwood was the Kelly's metal polish, dug up on the bank of the river, made into mortar, then into brick, then dried and ground and put up in papers. A large quantity was put up and sold in all parts of the West; the finest was a good article, but about the time that it was coming into general use, the city and the polish business burst up, and it has never been manufactured since. At the old Kelly Homestead in Sherburne county there are yet car loads of nicely labelled packages of O. H. Kelly & Co.'s Excelsior Metal Polish. A dense growth of bush, several old holes in the ground, once cellars, the pit where the polish was dug is all that remains of Kelly's folly, the city of Northwood.

VILLAGE OF OTSEGO

In May 1857, J. G. Smith, Z. M. Brown, J. N. Barbur and John McDonald Sen. had surveyed and platted about 400 acres in sections 17 and 18, township 131, range 23, on the bank of the Mississippi river, as the village of Otsego, nearly all prairie with oak openings and fine groves. It is a splendid townsite, but soon after the town was laid out, townsite speculation and nearly all speculative business came to an end, and Otsego never got a fair start, and at present is a small village.

That year Messrs. Cooper and Crary built a large steam saw mill at the mouth of the creek on the townsite; the engine was a 120 horse-power, with saws and shingle and lath mill, but it was not a success and the machinery was removed to Elk River in 1860. John McDonald purchased the building and put in a small engine and saw mill which burned in 1878. A store was kept by C. B. Jordan in 1857 and 1858. A hotel was built in 1856; blacksmith shop and other business commenced. A postoffice was established in 1856, John McDonald, postmaster. At present there is only one store, Rollin Thorp, who is postmaster.

The mills generally called the Dayton Mills, are in the town of Otsego. On the 7th day of August, 1856, the first stick of timber was laid in the Dayton dam. In December of that year a saw mill was built, the owners were Lyman Dayton and Frank Weizel. The dam went out the next spring and several times afterwards, and a large amount of money was spent up to 1860, on the Dayton dam. The saw mill did not do a large amount of work for two or three years. In 1860, a flouring mill was built by the same parties with four run of burrs; many improvements have been made since that time in the mill. W. F. Hurlburt purchased a half interest in the mill in 1877, and R. R. Hurlburt purchased the other half interest in 1879. The Hurlburts made many improvements and additions and changed it to a roller mill, the leading flouring mill in the county. The Hurlburts went out of business in February, 1882, and Frank Weizel now runs the flouring mill. W. P. Hurlburt built a large store, brick veneered, 30 by 100 feet, in the town of Otsego near the mill, and did a large business; the store is now closed.

OTSEGO IN THE WAR OF 1861

The following persons enlisted in the U. S. army during the great rebellion:

Joseph McDonald	Co.	B	1st Reg't.
F. S. McDonald	"	H	3rd "
Wm. McLoed	"	"	" "
Caleb Chase	"	"	" "
John McDonald	"	"	" "
Cornelius Mealey	"	"	" "
Clark Nye	"	"	" "
Naploleon Steele	"	"	" "
Samuel E. Carrick	"	C	4th "
Charles Shalafoo	"	"	" "
V. Valentine	"	"	" "
Andrew Ramsey	"	B	6th "
Alex. Wood	"	"	" "
E. D. Washburn	"	E	8th "
E. F. Washburn	"	"	" "
B. F. Cooley	"	A	2nd "
B. T. Cray	"	"	" "
John H. Morgan	"	D.M. M.R.	
James Cooley	"	B. H. B.	
Wm. Heaton	"	C. H. A.	

THE INDIAN SCARE OF 1862

When the news reached the town of the Indian outrages it created a panic, and the inhabitants all fled to Minneapolis, or over the Mississippi, to Elk River; only two or three persons remained in the town. But the scare did not last for long; after two or three days the people began to return, the few who would not leave acting as an assurance that there was no danger, and along the river the settlers were soon at work again on their farms. In 1863, the stampede did not amount to much. Some persons in the timber in the west part of the town left, but along the river the settlers generally did not get frightened.

FERRIES

The first ferry established was by Samuel Carrick, at a point opposite what is now the village of Elk River, in 1854. Mr. Carrick had a trading post here in 1853, and the ferry is still running and has always been doing a good business. John McDonald established a ferry at the village of Otsego, in 1855, and has owned and run the same to the present time. Baker's ferry in section 11, in the west part of the town has been well patronized and is doing a good business. The three ferries over the Mississippi in Otsego, and all doing a good business, is owing to the good flouring mills, wheat market and trading point at Elk River, which has been for several years as far as selling wheat goes, the market town for Otsego, Monticello, Frankfort, and some other towns in Wright county.

CHURCHES AND OTHER SOCIETIES

The first religious services were held in town in 1854, by Rev. Mr. White of Orono, a Methodist. The first settled minister was Rev. O. P. Light in 1856. The Methodist Episcopal church was organized in May 1857. The members were L. Cooley and wife, John McDonald and wife, A. H. Merrill and wife, Benj. Gray and wife, Wm. Barnard and wife, and E. T. Washburn and wife. A meeting house, 36 by 40 feet, was commenced in April 1871, and finished and dedicated in June 1872. The house is located in the village of Otsego, and is well finished and a good building, and is a credit to the society and an ornament to the town. The present pastor is Rev. William Brown. Membership, 24. A Baptist church was organized in 1870, but has never been strong; they have occasional preaching in a school house, but have no regular minister. The Advent Christian church was organized in 1872, and has quite a large membership; but they have no meeting house. Services are held regularly in the village school house.

The camp meeting association of the Methodist Episcopal church purchased a tract of land, about two acres, adjoining the village in 1861, and held a camp meeting here that year, and each year since 1864. A fine chapel has been erected on the ground, and several cottages and many tents are put up at the annual camp meeting. The chapel is 25 by 40 feet, and Otsego is noted for having the second best camp meeting grounds in the state. Red Rock alone beats it. A well laid out burying ground for the public, well fenced and well kept near the village on the river road is one of the institutions of Otsego. The I. O. of G. T. have had a lodge in the town at two or three different periods, but at

present there is no temperance society, but a strong temperance sentiment prevails among the citizens. There has never been a saloon in the town. The P. of H. had a flourishing grange from 1873 to 1879, but it has like many others, passed away. Although a farming community, there is no farmers' society, nor society of any kind in town except churches.

ROADS - BRIDGES - RAILROADS

The first road in the county was laid out through Otsego along the Mississippi river from the east to the west side of the town. This road is much used, and as a large portion of it is sandy, it does not require much work to make it a good road. The other roads through the timber have not been worked much, and are not good. But during the past two or three years, roads have been much improved, but there is need of more improvement. The bridge over Crow river at Dayton is partly in this town, and the town has been taxed quite heavily to build and keep it in repair. In 1860, the town voted to expend $600 to assist in building a new bridge; the contract was let and the work was completed. About this time, some of the wise town officers pretended to discover something illegal about the town meeting and refused to pay the money to the contractor. A lawsuit followed and an appeal to the supreme court and at the end the town paid about double the original bill in lawyers fees and court expenses.

A large business has been carried on in this town, cutting and hauling wood and ties; a large part has been delivered on the branch line of the St. P. M. & M. R. R., on the east side of the Mississippi, and thousands of cords of wood have been rafted down the river to Minneapolis. In the fall of 1881, the Osseo branch of the same railroad was

completed through the south part of the town near the town line, and the wood and ties are now hauled to that road.

STATISTICS

The agricultural reports of 1880 show the following in Otsego; Wheat, 1,666 acres; Oats, 388 acres; corn 484 acres; barley, 6 acres; rye, 22 acres; buckwheat, 8 acres; sugar cane, 31 acres; cultivated hay, 214 tons; apple trees growing, 2,718; apple trees bearing, 1,309; grape vines, 34; milch cows, 252; sheep, 430; hogs, 145; horses, 157; farms, 99.

Population by U. S. and state census: 1860, 370; 1865, 405; 1870, 595; 1875, 637; 1880 including village, 740; village, 62.

Druggist and Physician,
tf-36] WAVERLY, MINN.

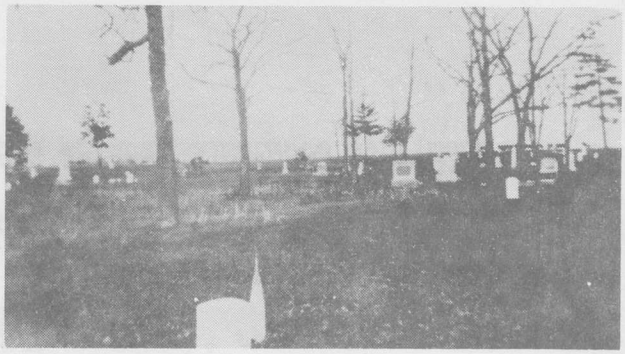
PIONEER
Drug Store
OF THE BIG WOODS!
WATERTOWN, CARVER CO., MINN.

C. C. HALGREN, Proprietor.

I carry a complete and well selected stock
of Drugs, Medicines, Paints, Oils
and Dye Stuffs, Etc.
Brushes, Trusses and Braces.



Large rock marking the Otsego crossing on the Mississippi River.



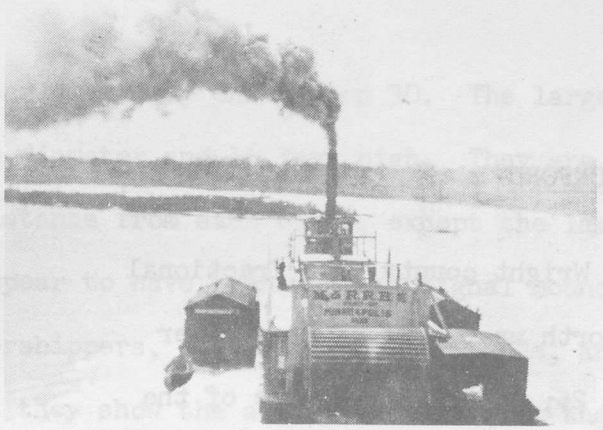
Otsego Cemetary.



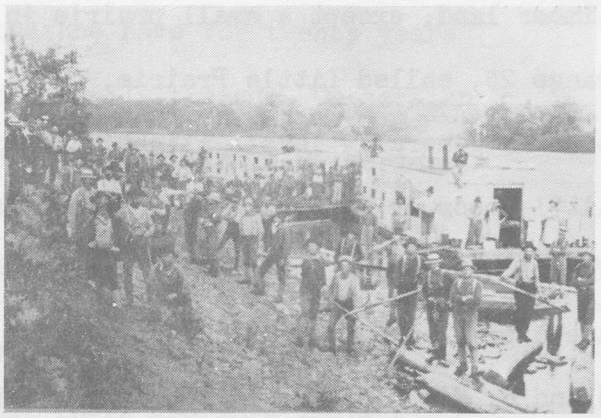
Otsego School building.

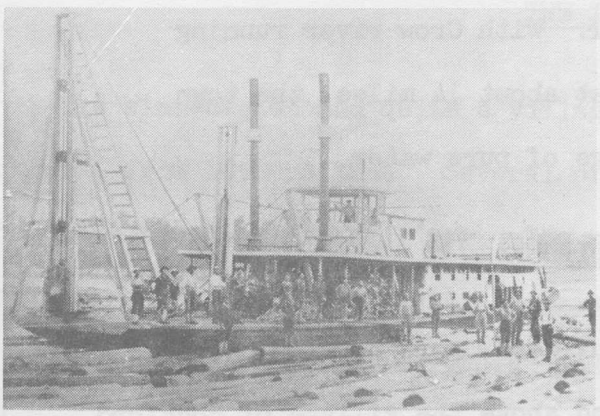


On the shores of the Mississippi River near Otsego.



Logging on the Mississippi River near Otsego.





TOWN OF ROCKFORD

Rockford is in the southeast part of Wright county, the fractional part of township 119 of range 24, on the north west side of Crow river and all that part of township 119 of range 25, on the north side of the north branch of Crow river. The town is bounded on the north by Buffalo and Frankford, on the east by Crow river, on the south by Franklin and Crow river, on the west by Marysville. The town was originally all timber land, except a small prairie in sections 22 and 23, township 119, range 25, called Little Prairie, about 200 acres. The surface of the town is generally level, slightly rolling but not much broken and very little poor or waste land. The soil is a deep dark loam with subsoil. The timber is oak, elm, ash, basswood and maple. The lakes in the town are a part of Walker's lake in section 4, Charlotte lake in sections 5 and 6, Moore's lake in section 1, Lake Mary in section 5, Mink and Tamarack lakes in section 6, and the whole of Crawford's lake in sections 13 and 14, Rice lake in section 23, Moore's lake in section 18, Lake Martha in section 5, and two or three small ones. The lakes cover from 100 to 800 acres each, or about 2,000 acres in all. With Crow river running the length of the town on the south and east about 14 miles, the town is well watered with many creeks and springs of pure water.

THE MOUND BUILDERS

The ancient inhabitants, the Mound Builders, were here on sections 29 and 30, near the Forks of Crow river, and above the village of Rockford are many of their mounds and earth works - about 30 on section 29, and

nearly as many on section 30. The largest one on section 29 is 50 feet in diameter and 16 feet high. They are nearly all three in a row equal distance from each other, except the large ones always stand alone and appear to have been used as signal mounds, or if the builders were fire-worshippers, they were temple mounds, and the fires were kept burning, as they show the action of fire from the top to the base; in fact, the inside has been thoroughly burned. On section 23, township 119, range 25, near the north branch, on land now owned and cultivated by Walter Albitz are six mounds; 25 years ago they were about 20 feet in diameter and 8 feet high. The plow, the harrow and the hoe have for twenty years been at work on them, still their outlines are easily traced. On section 20, below the village near the river, the same traces of this mysterious race are found, and several other places in town show that Rockford was once occupied by a race of human beings who have left no history; there is not even any tradition of them. The only thing to call them into mind are the mysterious mounds. It seems that there are more ancient mounds here and near the Forks of Crow river, on both sides, than at any other place in Wright or Hennepin counties.

THE INDIANS

The Winnebagoes had quite a village at what is now the village of Rockford, from 1850 to 1854. Several of their teepees were standing in 1856, near the bank of the river. The rapids in the river was good fishing ground, and they caught and dried a large quantity of fish. In May 1851, the river was very high and the steamboat, "Gov. Ramsey", made one trip to the village and took on quite a large cargo of dried fish; this was about all the steamboating ever done on the river. Shakopee's

band of Sioux camped here for two months in 1856 and 1857; they killed mnay deer and other game, and one winter caught many fish. Their camping ground was just above the village. The same band with some others visited this part of the county each winter until 1860, for the purpose of hunting and fishing. But in 1860, the white deer hunters with Sheriff Bertram as leader, raised a large posse and drove them out of the county. They did not use any forcible means, but by reason of superiro strength compelled them to leave the county. The Indians were a sorry looking crowd as they passed over the Rockvord bridge followed by the hooting hunters and others. During the Indian trouble of 1862 and 1863, these same persons who crowed over the Indians in 1860, were the worst frightened of the lot, knowing or fearing that the Indian had a good memory and is always revengeful.

THE FIRST WHITE SETTLERS

In April, 1855, the village of Greenwood was surveyed and laid out as a townsite. The first settlers and town proprietors were Matthew Taisey, E. O. Newton and Samual Allen. During the summer of 1855, the new town near the Forks of Crow river in Hennepin county had a name and reputation of being a prospective, flourishing town, and had quite a number of visitors; some of them began to cross the river and take claims in Wright county. As originally laid out, Greenwood was on each side of the river; the first maps of the townsite showed about half of the town in Wright county, and in the town of Rockford. John M. Burt from Big Flats, N. Y., was one of the settlers that year, he took a claim adjoining the townsite, the southwest quarter of section 29, which he now owns, comprising the land between the village of Greenwood as originally laid out, and the village of Rockford. He has not improved his land, but it is in its original

state, heavy timber. Matthew Taisey took a claim on the southwest quarter of section 30, now known as Powers' meadow. In August William Frazer took the claim below Burt's on the river, the northwest quarter of section 29, now the village of Rockford. In September, 1855, there were many claim hunters at the new town, amongst others, A. W. Dorman and J. F. Powers. Mr. Powers purchased the claim of Matthew Taisey about the first of October, and Mr. Taisey took a claim on the southwest quarter of section 24, now owned by Walter Albitz. J. D. Young took a claim, the northeast quarter of section 30. A. G. Sexton on the southeast quarter of 19, and Thomas Shippy on the southwest of 19, now owned by Henry Mack. About the first of October, Geroge F. Ames and Joel Florida, of Boon county, Illinois, visited Minnesota. It is said that Mr. Ames having had several lawsuits with the Chicago and Galena railroad company that crossed his farm at Garden Prairie, got rather worsted on the score of damages and became disgusted with the onward march of civilization, and especially of railroads, sold out a splendid farm and hotel and with his brother-in-law started for the wilds of Minnesota. On their way up the Mississippi river, on the steamboat, they fell in with Guilford D. George of Boston, a native of Vermont, and as Messrs. Ames and Florida were natives of the same locality, they soon fell into company and agreed to travel together and look over the territory. Mr. George, being a machinist, millwright and carpenter, and Mr. Ames a practical millman, their attention was turned to mills and water powers. Arriving at the then undeveloped village of Minneapolis, by accident they heard of the beauties of the big woods and the rapid growth of the only city Greenwood, and of the splendid unused waterpowers along the Crow river and concluded to visit the place; they arrived at Greenwood, October 4, 1855, and the next day visited what was

then called the best waterpower on the river, supposed to be held by John M. Burt. It was supposed by the proprietors of the townsite of Greenwood that the dam and mills would be built near the mouth of Edgar's creek, very near the line of the townsite, as most of the falls or rapids were at that point, and on Burt's claim. But Ames, Florida & George found a more available millsite below Burt's, so they purchased the claim from Frazer. Mr. Ames took this as a pre-emption claim (the northeast quarter of section 29), Mr. Florida the northwest quarter of the same section Mr. George the southwest quarter of section 20, and a Mr. C. O. Thomas the southeast quarter of section 20. James Goodwin took the southeast quarter of section 29; the last claim was purchased by Mrs. Mary H. Ames, a sister of Mrs. G. F. Ames (and afterwards Mrs. George), in the spring of 1856, and pre-empted it. A small portion of this claim is in the village of Rockford. Messrs. Ames, Florida & George formed a co-partnership then and there for the purpose of building a mill and laying out a town. The capital invested was $4,500, Mr. Ames taking four shares of $500 each, Mr. Florida three, and Mr. George two, making nine shares of $500 each. Messrs, Ames and Florida returned to Illinois and on the 6th day of October 1855, G. D. George became the first permanent settler in the town of Rockford. The 18th day of November, 1855, Isaac P. Harvey and Cryus Redlon and his sons, Frederick and Frank, arrived from Illinois; they took up their residence with Mr. George. Mr. Frazer had built a small cabin near where the liberty pole is in the village, in front of the present residence of Mrs. George. Mrs. George and company built a small addition, but it was rather close quarters. Mr. Harvey took a claim on the northwest quarter of section 20, Mr. Redlon on the northeast quarter of the same section About this time, in November, James Sheridan took a claim on

the east side of Lake Charlotte in section 5, and David Cook on the south side of the same lake in section 6; they moved onto their claims in the spring of 1856. In January 1856, Thomas Shippy built a house on his claim and became a permanent settler. August, Henry and Christian Wolff took claims on sections 2 and 3, in the fall of 1855, and built a house; they all lived together in the spring of 1856. Henry Grehling and Fred. Lieder settled on section 10, and Fred. Peikart on section 9 during the fall or early winter of 1855-56. In February 1856, Calvin Steward and his nephews, Washington Steward and Jackson Steward, came to Rockford; they walked from near Fort Atkinson, in Wisconsin. They came partly to find homes and to work for Ames, Florida & George, clearing land and building a house for the rest of the company who were to come in the spring. Calvin Steward took a claim on the southeast quarter of section 18, and Jackson Steward on the northeast quarter of section 17. They all went into Mr. George's house and it was full. Two or three acres of the village timber was cut that winter and spring, and the walls of a large double log house put up near the river, now on the southwest corner of Bridge and Mechanic streets; the site is now occupied by N. T. Derby's store. The 30th day of June 1856, quite a large party arrived from Illinois. The town company decided to purchase a steam saw mill to saw lumber for the proposed dam and mills, and supply the settlers with lumber until the water mills were completed. The travel from Minneapolis to Greenwood had been by a very poor and crooked road by the way of Wayzata, there was no road laid out direct to the cities. The present Rockford and Minneapolis road is a part of the Minneapolis and Forest City territorial road. By act of the legislature passed February 26, 1856, Thos. Hanson, Geo. H. Fletcher and D. R. Farnham were appointed a committee to survey and lay out a territorial

road from Minneapolis via Greenwood to Forest city. The committee met at Minneapolis the 24th of June, 1856, and employed R. J. Mendenhall as surveyor; he had just arrived and this was his first work. Wm. B. Burrill, now of Greenwood, was one of the chairmen. The committee acted as axmen, chairmen and everything else. The road has never been changed, except to get it onto the original survey. Like all other pioneer road surveying, it was a difficult job; through brush, swamps and heavy timber, rain, mud and mosquitoes, with many experimental lines to run through a country of lakes, marshes and hills, it was slow, tedious work. When about half way to Rockford, they were overtaken by the Rockford town proprietors, with about a dozen teams, the steam saw mill and some 20 men besides women and children. They cut out the road, built bridges and camped wherever night overtook them. They arrived at Rockford and forded the river, the 30th day of June, mill and all hands safe. With this party came G. F. Ames, Joel Florida, William Sleight, Thomas Steele, Joseph Balls, Wm. C. Eldred, Amos Denny, Thomas Prestridge, Jesse Prestridge, Joel Beebe, W. W. Burch, and others. Some of the families stopped at Minneapolis for a while, but many came to Rockford and lived in tents for a short time until they could build log cabins. C. C. Jenks came to Rockford at the same time, but not from Illinois; he had been living at Anoka and Rice Creek for four or five years, but had formerly resided at Rockford, Illinois, and when the time came to name the town, Amesville, Big Rock and other names were talked of, by Mr. Jenks suggested Rockford, and stuck to it, and it was finally adopted. Joseph Balls, Thomas Steele, Joel Beebe, W. O. Eldred, W. W. Burch and Amos Denny took claims in the town of Frankfort near Beebe lake, on sections 28, 29 and 32. William Sleight took a claim on the northwest quarter of section 17, and the southwest

quarter of section 8, and they still reside on their claims. Owen Davis, who came with the Stewards took a claim on the southeast quarter of section 8. In 1856, came G. A. Ruckoldt and settled on section 22, township 119, range 25, where he now resides. A. C. Northrop settled on section 25, the same year; William H. Roberts took the southwest quarter of section 24.

TOWN OF ROCKFORD

Henry Liederbach came in October 1856, and took the claim where he now resides, on section 13. A. W. Moore and H. S. Angell came the same year.

FIRST ORGANIZATION

The board of county commissioners at a meeting held September 6, 1856, organized the precinct of Rockford, from townships 119 and 120, range 24, and townships 118 and 119, range 25. The place designated to hold elections was the house of C. C. Jenks. Joel Florida, G. D. George and William Sleight were appointed judges of election; C. C. Jenks was appointed justice of the peace, and W. O. Eldred, constable. C. C. Jenks was also appointed assessor. A school district was established at the same meeting, called Rockford school district, and a school was commenced that winter. Miss Marrilla Moses, now Mrs. Geo. Sook, was the first teacher.

TOWN ORGANIZATION

On the 6th of April, 1858, the town of Rockford was established by the board of county commissioners, consisting of township 119, range 24, or that part of said township in Wright county, about 16 sections, and

all of township 119, of range 25, except sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, which were attached to the town of Buffalo. The first town meeting was held at the Rockford house, in the village, May 11, 1858, and the following persons were elected town officers:

Supervisors - S. R. Workman (chairman), Wm. Sleight, O. F. Jackson.

Town clerk - G. D. George

Assessor - H. A. Wallace

Treasurer and Collector - Wm. Godfrey

Constables - Wm. Godfrey, John C. Jones

Justice of the peace - O. F. Jackson, C. C. Jenks.

Overseer of the poor - A. W. Lucas

The chairman was a member of the county board of supervisors. The town board had a large amount of work to do, organizing road districts and laying out roads. But the whole expenses were only $60.

During the year of 1858, a move was made to organize a new town to be called Freedom, from township 119, range 25. A petition signed by nearly all of the legal voters of that township was presented to the board of county supervisors at the January meeting in 1859; also a remonstrance by the legal voters of township 119, range 24, stating that the organization of the town of Freedom would reduce the town of Rockford to a fractional part of a township, and the expenses of supporting two organizations would nearly double the town taxes. The question of the new organization was supported by the Rockford member of the county board, but the measure was laid over until the April meeting. The annual town meeting in 1859, was held in the village of Rockford, April 5th. About the time of the opening of the meeting one of the leading citizens and political workers in the proposed town of Freedom said, addressing the

citizens of the village, "Well, gentlemen, have you got an exclusive Rockford ticket nominated?" He was answered no, we have held a caucus and have nominated men for town officers from all parts of the town." "Well," said he, "we held a caucus yesterday in Freedom, and nominated a Freedom ticket, and we are going to elect it. Of course, you are not obliged to vote our ticket, but we simply ask you to vote it, so that the election may be unanimous." This was taken as a challenge. A few persons immediately went to writing and working for a Rockford ticket, and it was elected by seven majority, and the Freedom politician and orator was defeated. A new man was sent to the county seat, the Freedom town organization matter was indefinitely postponed, and that was about the last ever heard of it.

The town officers elected were:

Supervisors - J. F. Standish (Chairman), H. S. Angell, A. W. Moore

Town clerk - D. R. Farnham

Treasurer - J. E. Jenks

Assessor - Wm. F. Bagley

THE FIRST DEATH - ACCIDENT

The first day of September 1856, a party of ten with D. R. Farnham as a guide, started from the village northwest to look up land and claims. There was no road or trail, and the French traders' old crooked road nearly two miles north of the present Buffalo and Rockford road and old Indian trails only.

There was not a claim taken between W. H. Roberts on southeast quarter of 24 and James Griffin near Buffalo lake. The party consisted of Charles Dolphus, John Ramsey, J. U. Freed, J. C. Hoagland, T. C. Staples,

Jackson Steward, Washington Steward and others, and they stayed at Buffalo that night. Amasa Ackley, G. A. J. Overton and James Griffin were then the only inhabitants of Buffalo. The next morning two claims were taken adjoining Griffin's, in Buffalo, and the whole of section 4 and 5 in the town of Rockford, and a part of sections 9 and 10 were selected and improvements commenced. The principle clearing was made by the persons taking the claims on sections 4, 5, 31 and 32, town of Buffalo, by Charles Dolphus, J. U. Freed and John Ramsey at the northeast corner of section 5 near the town line, and the place was named Airy. The party then started for Rockford on a direct line, making the first line near where the Rockford and Buffalo north road now is. When about one-half mile from the village they stopped for a few minutes to speak to Amos Denny who was chopping down a large basswood tree for saw logs, the tree fell just at that time and a large limb broke off and fell on the head of Washington Steward, killing him instantly, and nearly killing John Ramsey, so that he was disabled for five or six months and never fully recovered.

The first birth was Minnie Peasley, daughter of John and Mary Peasley, born January 2, 1857. Her mother died when she was a week old, and she was adopted by Albert H. Taisey of Greenwood and is known as Minnie Taisey.

The first marriage was that of G. D. George and Mrs. Mary Ames, December 25, 1856, Rev. A. A. Russell of Minneapolis officiating.

The murder of H. A. Wallace in 1858, the trial and subsequent lynching of Oscar F. Jackson, both town officers, and the so called Wright county war are fully given in the county history.

GINSENG

Rockford was the pioneer town in the ginseng business. Col. Robert Blaine of Virginia commenced building a drying house, and buying ginseng roots, the first of June 1859, and paid out that year about $8000. In 1860, he did about the same amount of business; besides other parties buying and drying for Godfrey Scheitlin of Minneapolis, did about the same amount of business; so that nearly $15,000 was paid for ginseng at Rockford in 1860. In 1861, the war had commenced and Col. Blaine did not make his appearance, but other parties bought and dried for Scheitlin for two or three years, and the money paid for ginseng was a great help to the pioneer settlers.

ROCKFORD IN THE WAR OF 1861

At the first call for 75, 000 soldiers for three months, eight or ten volunteered from this town, and in many organizations men from Rockford were found; in fact a larger number of men volunteered than there were legal voters in 1860. Rockford was never nearer than 18 men to a draft. The following is not a complete list of Rockford soldiers, but is what the records in the Adjutant General's office show:

C. F. Redlon	CO.	A.	3rd	Reg't.
W. A. Frederick	"	"	"	"
E. J. Varney	"	"	"	"
C. L. Angell	"	"	"	"
J. E. Jenks	"	"	"	"
N. D. Sperry	"	"	"	"

John Klose	Co.	A.	3rd	Reg't.
Fred. Moreman	"	"	"	"
John Seibel	"	"	"	"
R. O. Crawford	"	"	"	"
W. B. Crawford	"	"	"	"
W. A. Cronk	"	"	"	"
S. L. Cronk	"	"	"	"
C. L. Ilstrup	"	"	"	"
Simon Ilstrup	"	"	"	"
Wm. Roloff	"	D.	5th	"
Wm. Deutsch	"	"	"	"
Christian Wolf	"	"	"	"
O.H. Bushnell	"	B	6th	"
M.A. Denny	"	"	"	"
C.H. Jenks	Co.	B.	6th	Reg't.
G. W. Kriedler	"	"	"	"
D. W. Kriedler	"	"	"	"
S. G. Kriedler	"	"	"	"
S. G. Kriedler	"	"	"	"
John Louisiana	"	"	"	"
Austin Knights	"	"	9th	"
Arthur Douglass	"	"	"	"
C. C. Wilcutt	"	"	"	"
A. W. Lucas	"	B	M M	Rang.
E. B. Ames	"	"	"	"
F. B. Angell	"	"	"	"
Lamson Conkling	"	"	"	"

I N D E X

D. R. FARNHAM'S
HISTORY OF WRIGHT COUNTY - 1880

This Index, an addendum to Daniel Ross Farnham's HISTORY OF WRIGHT COUNTY - 1880, is presented to the Wright County Historical Society as a memorial and tribute to my mother, PERYL WINIFRED OAKLEY REEDY (1890-1971), whose birthplace was Buffalo; to my great grandfather, RESOLVE O. CADY, M.D. (1819-1899), who came to Buffalo in 1862 as one of the county's earliest physicians; and to my great grand-uncle, CLARENCE EDGAR OAKLEY (1846-1929), who founded the Oakley State Bank in Buffalo.

Numbering of the pages in this Index continues the numbering of the main work.

Since the main work contains many variations in initials and names, the most logical listings in the judgment of the indexer are given, with the variations in parentheses. Researchers are urged to examine and consider all possibilities.

Jacqueline Reedy Hood

Chico, California

JULY 1981

D. R. FARNHAM'S

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Carl Douglass	Co.	B	M M	Rang.
John M. Higgins	"	"	"	"
J. W. Silliman	"	C	"	"
Samuel White	"	"	"	"
W. H. Heath	"	"	"	"
T. R. Briggs	Co.	B.	Hatch's	Bat.
W. O. Eldred	"	"	"	"
Calvin Mooers	"	"	"	"
David Cook	"	"	"	"
G. A. Avery	"	C.	"	"
Alvin C. Mead	"	"	"	"

Frederick Redlon, Co. I, 2nd Reg't; S. Denny, F. M. Jenks, John Jacobs, Mark Brownell, Co. B. 3rd Reg't, A.V. Haynes and Jackson Steward Berdan's Sharpshooters, and several others, are not reported in the adjutant general's report.

INDIAN WAR OF 1862 AND 1863

At the first alarm, the 20th of August, 1862, the settlers in the back towns began to flock into Rockford. Many of the determined to go to Minneapolis, St. Paul or Fort Snelling for safety. But several of the citizens of the village made a stand at the bridge, and by presuasion, after the first fright was over, stopped the rush, and but very few left after the first hour or two. They soon organized, appointed captains and committees, and sent a request to the governor for arms and ammunition, which was granted, and 50 Belgian muskets and a large quantity of powder and lead was forwarded in a very short time. A log fort was built in front of the saw mill, and in connection with the mills made quite a respectable

and safe place of retreat in case of an attack by the Indians; at least, the people thought so and it gave them confidence, and the village was full for two or three weeks. The barns, stables, sheds and other buildings were packed full. About 12 guards were placed around the village each night, changed at 12 o'clock and the people felt safe; but one night, about 11 o'clock, a gun was heard up the river, then another and another. The guards came rushing in with the report that the Indians had attacked Greenwood, and the military order was go into the fort. For about a half hour there was a scene; the whole population was out of bed and rushed into that fort in short order. The order was to have no lights, and the half dressed men, women and children wakened out of a deep sleep, supposing that the Indians would be on hand with tomahawk and torch in a few minutes, the hollowing of men, the crying and hurrying of women and children, running over each other in the dark, was something not to be described. It was at that time that the famous prayer was made by a woman with many children and her husband away in the army. She was behind all the rest, bothered with her numerous brood, and became somewhat discouraged about getting to the fort in time, so she gave up; and fell on her knees and prayed thus; "Oh Lord, save me and my children from the tomahawk and the scalping knife of the savages," and immediately added, "and if I live until to-morrow morning, I will get out of this cursed town." The explanation of the shots heard up the river near Greenwood was that a party of young folks from Rockford not having the fear of Indians nor of the military authorities before their eyes, had taken a large boat during the evening and had a boat ride up the river, partly for pleasure and to see how matters progressed at Greenwood, and perhaps by accident, as they claimed, three or four shots were fired from a revolver. About the time that the frightened people had got safely into the fort, the boating party returned, and the male

portion came very near being court martialed or lynched. This episode opened the eyes of thinking men and they soon came to the conclusion that the whole thing was a farce, and soon began to return to their homes. In June 1863, when the Dustin family were murdered, the rush into Rockford was still greater than the preceding year. Then there seemed something to be frightened at; the Indians were in the big woods, no doubt of that; how many no one knew; there might be hundreds, and there was the same determination to go to Minneapolis or some other place. The same stand was taken by the citizens; a mass meeting was held, attended by hundreds, and it was voted to build a fort or stockade in the village. John Knights, F. S. Boynton and G. F. Ames were elected a committee to oversee the work. They immediately commenced work on a stockade, 40 by 40 feet, with bastions at each corner, in the mill yard, nearly on the southwest line of Bridge street. A trench was dug three or four feet deep and all sawed lumber found in the mill yard was used, boards, planks, scantlings and everything in the lumber line was stood up two, three and four thicknesses. About 10,000 feet were used; it was of no use afterwards, as the lumber was cut and split and bored full of two inch port holes. The unlucky renter of the saw mill was the principal loser. Part of the stockade was covered over and several families lived or stayed there for two or three weeks. In about ten days a part of Company "I" of the 10th Reg't. were stationed at Rockford and many scouting parties were in the west part of the county, and the settlers began to return to their homes and there was nothing left of the Indian scare of 1863, but that unsightly stockade.

THE END OF THE WAR IN 1865

At the news of the capture of Petersburg and Richmond, and the

surrender of Lee and his army, Rockford went wild with joy, and had an impromptu celebration which lasted from night until morning, with speeches songs prayers, beer and gunpowder. It was a wild night and the resident minister was called out of his bed and was constrained to offer a very patriotic and fervent prayer on a counter covered with bottles, beer kegs and glasses. Public opinion required it, although himself a very strong temperance man.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The Rockford and Minneapolis road, one of the most important to the town, was laid out in 1857, and during the next two years the citizens of Rockford spent much time and money opening the road and building bridges over creeks and marshes so as to make it passable , as some of the towns in Hennepin county did not take much interest in roads. In October 1857, a county road was surveyed and laid out from Rockford to Monticello by the way of Beebe Lake and Pelican Lake; also a county road from Rockford to Mooer's Prairie by the way of Northrope's on section 25, crossing Crow river at what is now called Northrope's bridge. Ed.P. Abbott, county surveyor, C. C. Jenks and Joel Florida were the road committee on both roads; also a county road was laid out down the Crow river, called the Rockford and Hassan road. The Minneapolis and Forest City territorial road was surveyed from Rockford to Buffalo, and cut out in the winter of 1856 and 1857, by citizens of Rockford. The several county and territorial roads laid out in the town and from the village, in 1856 and 1857, were through timber land and were opened by the citizens, not by a tax, but by private enterprise and individual effort. Many

roads have since that time been laid out, running in all direction, many more than are needed, and some that have never been opened; but nearly all needed roads have been well worked, and Rockford has as good and perhaps better roads than any other timber town in the county.

The town having the Crow river on the south and east line nearly 14 miles, the bridges have been quite an item for both private subscription and taxation. The first bridge was built at the village, over Crow river, in January and February 1857. It was a frame bridge, costing about $500, and was built by the citizens of Rockford, principally by the village inhabitants; a large part by the town proprietors. The bridge was repaired in 1862, at a cost of $400, the county of Wright paying $100. In the spring of 1866, the bridge was destroyed by high water and a new one built that year by Wm. B. Burrill. This was a frame bridge costing about $1,200, Wright county paying $300, Hennepin county $300, the town of Greenwood $100, and Rockford the balance. This bridge was repaired by the town in 1871, at the cost of nearly $200. In 1875, a part of it was destroyed and a new bridge built in 1876, by Jacob Vollbrecht, costing $2,000; this is a pile bridge, and is very solid and substantial. Hennepin county and the town of Greenwood paid one-half, Wright county $400, and Rockford the balance. The bridge at Northrope's on section 25, township 119, range 25, over the north branch of Crow river was built in 1858, at a cost of $400. This bridge was rebuilt in 1867, at a cost of $500, the county paying $100, and was partially destroyed in 1869, and removed by the board of supervisors to section 23, and has since been called Ruckoldt's bridge. The town officers who removed the bridge were G. A. Ruckoldt, (chairman) C. N. Cooper and T. M. Cathcart, supervisors, and E. H. Farnham, townclerk. By what authority, has never been known.

The bridge was repaired in 1873, at an expense of $150, by the town and in 1874, when that part of township 119, range 25, lying south of Crow river, was by act of the legislatures set off and became a part of the town of Franklin, one-half of the bridges over the north branch belonged to that town to repair and rebuild. The Ruckoldt bridge was rebuilt in 1879, by the town of Rockford and Franklin; it is a substantial pile bridge, costing about $1,100. The Samsell bridge was built by private subscription in 1869; it was a frame bridge and cost about $400. It was rebuilt in 1873, by J. N. Haven & Co. of Montrose, at a cost of $175, paid by the town of Rockford; then repaired by S. M. Welch and T. J. Patterson in 1877, costing the towns about $100. A new bridge was built in 1880, by W. A. Cronk, costing the two towns and Wright county $1,300.

The bridge on the town line between Rockford and Frankfort has had appropriations from Rockford of $150 during the past 20 years, and many small bridges have been built, costing from $50 to $100 each. The long line of river and the many creeks running into the river, and the necessity of having roads running parallel to and near the river, makes small bridges numerous and expensive.

SCHOOLS - SCHOOL HOUSES

There are seven school districts in the town, and two parts of districts in connection with the town of Frankfort. Four substantial frame school houses and three log houses which will be replaced by frame houses this year. In each district, schools are taught from four to nine months in each year. The first school house was built in the village in 1859; the house was 24 by 30 feet and well finished and used for nearly twenty years; it was built without a tax, by voluntary contributions. The first schools in the village were kept in dwelling houses or temporary

quarters. In the spring of 1878, a move was made to build a new house. After many special district meetings at which the friends of education worked hard to induce the citizens to vote for a good school house, a compromise was made with the enemies of progress and a house was built that year, 28 by 40 feet, 22 feet posts, with two school rooms at a cost of about $1,400. The house is well finished and furnished and is comfortable and convenient, and very pleasantly situated, but very soon a larger house will be called for, as the present one is full. The persons who worked so diligently and faithfully to prevent building and larger or more expensive than the present need, begin to see their mistake; a larger school house must be built or some of the scholars turned out - 160 scholars are enrolled, which is more than the seating capacity of the school house. The citizens generally are in favor of good schools and well paid, first class teachers, but a strong party in the district are opposed to anything that costs money, and in the past this old fogy, cheap school and cheap teacher element has been in the majority, and the village schools have not always been successful. The present teachers are L. W. Elliot, principal, and Miss M. Cheadle in primary department. School officers - George Guptil, director; Jeff. Benner, treasure; Albert Roberts, Clerk. School term nine months. The district is joint school districts No. 112, in Wright and Hennepin counties and is a large district.

MILLS - MANUFACTORIES

The first mill in Rockford was the steam saw mill purchased by Ames Florida and George, and brought to the village the 30th day of June, 1856. The engine was a 25 horse power, the mill a portable saw mill. It was set up in what is now the mill year, nearly on a line with Mechanic street, and commenced work about the first of August. What lumber had

been used previous to this time had been furnished by the Perkins Brothers' mill at Lake Independence. The Rockford mill furnished lumber for many settlers' cabins during that fall and winter, and quite a number of buildings were put up in the village. This mill was burned on the 2nd day of April, 1858, but was very soon rebuilt, and set running, but never did a large amount of work afterwards. The burning of it nearly ruined the boiler and iron work. In July 1857, the dam and water mills were commenced, the dam was a brush and timber dam, seven feet ten inches high and was finished by the first of November. The mill was 35 by 40 feet; one sash saw, and one run of burrs for grinding corn were put in and were running a part of that winter. The 3rd day of April, 1858, a part of the dam was washed away, and on account of very high water was not rebuilt or finished until the middle of November. The new dam was built by G. H. Fletcher and D. R. Farnham; the mills were run by G. F. Ames and D. R. Farnham. In 1859, in August and September, the flouring mill was put in, or one run of burrs, for wheat and a bolting chest and smut machine. Mr. Ames purchased Mr. Florida's and George's interest in the mills in 1860, and run the mills in 1860 and 1861. In 1862, M. W. Shultes and D. R. Farnham leased the mills for three years and built an addition and put in a circular saw in November of that year. In 1867, another mill was built adjoining the old one, and three run of burrs and a new bolting chest added. In November 1878, Mr. G. F. Ames died, and the property was purchased by G. W. Florida, who immediately commenced to rebuild the saw mill and make many changed in the flouring mill, putting in entire new machinery except the burrs, and making it a first class flouring mill with all of the then modern improvements. The mill as a custom mill has a large business. During the year 1882, the dam has been rebuilt and although it has never

been very substantial, and has been very expensive, taking much of the earnings of the mills to keep it in repair, it is now considered safe and substantial. When the dam was built in 1857, it raised the water in the river higher than the mill company expected, and overflowed more land. This has been the cause of several claims for damages, and consequently, law suits, but at the present time, it is supposed that all claims for damages are settled, and law suits on that account are at an end. In the transfer of the mill interest and water-power, to G.F. Ames, G.D. George reserved the right to a small part of the waterpower, and built a machine shop or factory below the flouring mill, 24 by 40 feet, and two stories high, where he manufactured spokes, wooden bowls, hubs, plow beams and handles, cracker boxes, furniture and many other things, a little of many things in the wood working line. Since his death in July 1874, the machine shop has been operated but very little. Miller & Thorn are now making cracker boxes, and George's shop is quite a business place.

The steam mill of L.H. Rawson was established in 1877, first as a stave factory and has worked at many things the past two years, getting out chair bottoms, staves, canthook handles, and grinding corn in the ear. It has been and is at the present time a busy mill.

THE WOOLEN MILL

Is a Rockford institution, although located on the southeast side of the river, in the town of Greenwood. The first building was erected in 1870, for a rake factory. It is 26 by 40 feet, and was rented that year to VanCleve and Herzog of Minneapolis, who put in machinery and made many broom handles. In 1871, they sold out to Burrill, Heslar & Bushnell, who carried on the same business for about a year. Then the firm changed to Burrill & Wilcutt. In 1875, the broom handle machinery was removed and W. W. Parker and M. Reynolds,

put in a carding mill. In 1877, M. G. Waren bought out Mr. Reynolds and Parker and Waren added a spinning jack and one loom, and other machinery. In 1878, the large building was erected, 38 by 40 feet, and two stories high, and well finished. They have seven looms. Jeff. Benner bought an interest in 1880, and the firm was Parker, Waren, and Benner. In the spring of 1882, Mr. Parker sold out his interest to Waren and Benner. They manufacture many kinds of woolen goods, principally mackinaws, flannels and jeans, and employ eighteen persons. In 1882, they manufactured about 25,000 yards of different kinds. The Rockford woolens find a ready sale, and are known as the best goods of the kind in the market.

THE TANNERY

In 1862, Mr. Hayford and D. R. Farnham commenced a tannery, and for four or five years quite a business was carried on in that line. In 1863, a building was erected, 30 by 20 feet, two stories high, well finished and furnished with all of the tools and apparatus to carry on the business. Nearly all kinds of leather was manufactured, and in large quantities. Mr. Hayford went out of the business in the fall of 1863. During the years of 1864 and 1865, many deerskins were tanned and gloves and mittens manufactured, and a large quantity of harness and lace leather made. In June, 1866, J. W. Mounts came to Rockford and went to work in the tannery. He purchased a half interest in it in the spring of 1867, and Miner Ball puchased the other half interest in the summer of 1867. But they did not make it successful, and the tannery was sold to Moses Waren and rented to Denny & Miller, in 1869, for a stave factory and was burned in 1872.

STORES

The first store building was started by E. B. Ames. He got out the sills and laid the foundation in September 1856, and sold out to J. R. Ames and J. G. Bascom, who went on and finished the building in September. It was 22 by 40 feet, two stories high, the upper story was used for a public hall for many years, and has been used for schools, dwellings and many other purposes. The building was located on Bridge street and partly in Main street, about where Joseph Meyer's building now is. Messrs. Ames & Bascom opened the first store about the middle of November, 1856. They started with a full stock of dry goods, groceries, hats, caps, boots, and shoes and hardware. In the spring of 1857, they sold the store and stock to George H. Fletcher. During 1856, 1857, and 1858, nearly all of the goods sold at Rockford were shipped from Minneapolis or St. Anthony by steamboat to Dayton and then brought up Crow river by flat boats or barges, carrying from three to four tons and manned by six men generally. The many rapids on the river made it hard, and at high water rather risky work, but the roads were so bad that in the summer season an empty wagon was about all that a team could haul from Minneapolis to Rockford. Mr. Fletcher sold the stock in the store in 1858, to Joel Florida. In 1859, the store was closed. Several small stocks of goods were put in during the ginseng trade, in 1859, and 1860. James B. Howlett of Minneapolis had quite a stock of goods in the fall of 1859. In 1865, the store building was purchased by P. McCabe, and moved to its present location on the northwest corner of Bridge and Main streets. McCabe put in a large stock of goods, but in 1868 closed up his affairs and left. The store has been occupied by M. G. Weidenbach, dealer in tinware, hardware and groceries.

In February 1859, Miner Ball came to Rockford and opened a small store in the kitchen of the Rockford house. In June he fitted up a Store on Mechanic street, now a part of the dwelling house of D. R. Farnham, and put in a general stock of goods; his partner was John P. Schultes. In the summer of 1860, M. W. Shultes, having purchased his brother's interest in the store, came to Rockford. In September, 1860, the store now occupied by Jefferson Benner, was commenced by Ball & Shultes, 22 by 40 feet, two stories, the upper room was used for public purposes and called Union Hall. It was finished in May 1861, and filled with a good stock of goods. In 1863, Mr. Ball sold out to Mr. Shultes. In 1864, Shultes sold to A. A. Sisam, and Sisam sold to Adam Kiorn in 1865. In August 1866, Jefferson Benner purchased a half interest, and in 1868, bought out Korn, and has continued the business to the present time, having enlarged the store building and made many additions; he is now doing a large business as a general country merchant.

About the first of January, 1867, Miner Ball came to Rockford the second time; he put in a stock of goods and opened a store in a building built by D. R. Farnham on Mechanic street near where Henry Inwie's house now is. The store was just finished. H. A. Ball was installed as clerk. The store was opened the 4th day of January, and the 7th it was burned. The stock was saved, but the building was a total loss. Mr. Ball then built on the southwest side of Bridge street and opened a store in March, in that building. He sold the store and stock to Phineas Cary in the fall of 1867, and built a large saw mill opposite the village of Greenwood, in the town of Rockford, which did a good business for nearly two years and then was burned. Mr. Cary sold his store and stock to J. L. Kelderhouse in 1869, and in 1870, Samuel Heslar purchased the property and continued

the business about ten years. N. T. Derby commenced business on the corner of Bridge and Mechanic streets in October 1880; he keeps a general store and good stock. B. E. Bushnell commenced business in November 1882, in the Masonic Block, Bridge street; his is a general store and a large stock.

DRUG STORES - SALOONS

The citizens generally and the town proprietors in particular, have been opposed to the saloon business. Until 1863 there was no saloon or liquor sold in town. Christian Barth opened a drinking place in the Rockford house; he sold out to Felix Logelin in 1865. Mr. Logelin erected a building on the corner of Bridge and Main streets, that year and continued the business. He sold to Phillip Schwab in 1866, who changed it to a drug store, but sold liquors. Schwab sold to Joseph Meyer in 1868, and the saloon business was continued until January, 1882. Charles Munding kept a saloon from 1879 to 1882; C. W. Buddrius for a short time in 1881, and the saloon burned. Henry Inwie has run a saloon part of the time during the year 1882.

Mrs. C. M. Bennett opened a drug store in 1878, in the Heslar building, and continued two years. E. A. Raymor started a drug store in 1876, in the small building on the northwest corner of Bridge and Main streets, and sold out to John H. Aker in 1878. Mr. Aker still continues the business, but does not carry a large stock. Several of the stores deal in drugs and patent medicines.

HOTELS

The first of August 1856, Mr. C. C. Jenks commenced to build the Rockford house, on the corner of Bridge and Mechanic streets. The main

building was 26 by 30 feet, with an addition or ell. 16 by 20 feet. The house was finished in November, and occupied as a hotel during the winter by the proprietor. Mr. Jenks kept the hotel about two years. In the summer of 1858, it was sold to Robert Godfrey, who was landlord until January 1860; then S. R. Workman took the hotel, and in March sold it to D. R. Farnham, who kept it two years, and was succeeded in June 1862, by T. R. Briggs. Christian Barth kept it from '63 to '65, then Felix Logelin for one year, and that was the last of the Rockford house as a hotel. It was used after this as a dwelling house, store house and other purposes, and torn down in 1874. In 1867, Mr. Hayford opened a hotel on Maple street, then called Piety Hill. In 1869, Mr. C. H. Jenks became the landlord and was succeeded in 1871, by W. H. Fredericks. The hotel was small and did not accommodate the public. W. J. Roberts opened a public house on Plumb street near the river, in 1872, but never did a large business, and for two or three years Rockford was almost destitute of hotel accommodation. In 1875, Louis Allars came to Rockford and in 1876 built the Centennial hotel, on the south east side of Mechanic street. The house is 90 by 30 feet, two stories, with a public hall, 45 by 26 feet, and is well finished and kept, and is very well patronized. It is noted for the large balls or dancing parties which have always been one of the Rockford peculiarities.

POST OFFICES

In March 1857, a post office was established at Rockford, and Joel Florida was appointed postmaster; and the same year the Minneapolis and Buffalo (via Rockford) mail route was established. In April 1859, Mr. Florida resigned, and D. R. Farnham was appointed postmaster, who held

the office ten years. In April 1869, Jefferson Benner was appointed postmaster and how hold the office.

In 1862, a postoffice was established at Dean Lake, and S. H. Dean was appointed postmaster. Mr. Dean died in 1874, and his widow, Mrs. H. S. Dean, was appointed postmistress until 1878, when the post office was discontinued.

THE HOP BUSINESS

On the 27th day of April 1866, W. S. Shultes came to Rockford from Berne, Albany county, N. Y. He brought hop roots enough for five acres; he purchased these at Waterville, N. Y., for $160. They were set out that year, and the first crop was raised in 1867. In 1869, he had about 8 acres and over 6,000 pounds of hops. From Shultes' hop yard, the roots were obtained to set out many acres. Nathanial Mooers, J. L. Kelderhause, W. C. Gould, John O'Mera, J. R. Cunningham, Allen Jenkins, C. L. Bugbee, Lenuel White, John Knights, John Elliott, W. P. C. Hawk, Cyrus Redlon and several others in the vicinity have been engaged in raising hops. For several years, the annual product was about 20,000 pounds. In 1867, the hop house was built in the village, 72 by 24 feet, two stories and is now the best hop drying establishment in the state. It was built and is owned by M. W. Shultes. For the past two or three years the hop raising business has fallen off, but is now reviving and several new yards will be sent out this year.

CHURCHES AND SOCIETIES

In September, 1856, the first religious meetings were held in the town. Rev. Jacob Myers, a Methodist minister, held services in the

village, and continued to hold meetings every two weeks until June 1857. Then A. H. Abbott was appointed to preach on the circuit and made his home at Rockford for two years. In 1859, Rev. C. G. Bowdish was the resident minister, and in 1860, Rev. Levi Gleason. A Methodist Episcopal church was organized in April '57. Wm Sleight, Thos. and Jesse Prestidge were among the first prominent members of the church and continue so to the present time. The society has had regular preaching every two weeks since that time. The local preachers who have assisted in the absence of any regular minister, are A. H. Abbott, H. E. Pitt and Amos Dickinson. A meeting house was built in 1873, in the village 26 by 36 feet. In 1872, it was moved to a more elligible and convenient sight, and repaired and enlarges. The church and minister are well supported by a strong society.

A Union Sunday School was organized in November 1856, William Sleight, superintendent. William Sleight is an Englishman by birth, but an American by education and principle. He came to the United States when 20 years of age, settled in Illinois and engaged in farming; married Miss Lydia Woodard, a sister of Mrs. Ames, Mrs. Florida and Mrs. George. He came to Rockford in June 1856, with Messrs, Ames and Florida, has engaged in agriculture and horticulture since that time. His garden orchard and farm are the best in town. He has been president of the Wright county agricultural society for a dozen years, took an active part in its organization, and has been a prominent exhibitor at every annual fair. He was instrumental, or in fact, was the working force at the two first fairs in Rockford, in 1861 and 1869. He was president of the Crow River Valley Agricultural Society from 1860 to 1868; Master of Star in the West Grange No. 6, P. of H., when organized in 1869, and always worked with that society.

Has been president of the Old Settlers' Association since 1868, excepting two years; was superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School, and class leader in the same church for many years; and has been first and foremost in almost every celebration, picnic and festival for twenty years, and is a part of the history of Rockford.

The Baptists have never had an organization in town, although there have been quite a number of that denomination in the vicinity. In July '56, Deacon Oliver Woodard, the father of Mrs. Ames, Florida, George and Sleight, came to Rockford, and during that winter, Rev. Emory Gale of Minneapolis, a Baptist minister, held several meetings and the first steps were taken to organize a church and build a meeting house. The town proprietors deeded two lots to the Baptist association for church purposes in February 1857, but Mr. Woodard died the 5th of March 1857, and the church was not organized and the house never built, and the Baptists went into other churches. Mr. Woodard gave in his will a part of his property to the Baptist home missionary society and to a Baptist theological school.

The Presbyterian church was organized in April 1864. The first pastor was J. H. Hunter. The members were Andrew Thompson and wife, A. Rutherford and wife, J. B. Edgar and wife, Mrs. Ann Cunningam, John E. Cathcart and wife, T. M. Cathcart, David White and wife, Mrs. D. R. Farnham. The first board of trustees were D. R. Farnham, Andrew Thompson and John B. Edgar. The meeting house was built in 1865, and finished in 1866, a substantial frame structure, 34 by 46 feet, costing about $1,600. Rev. J. H. Hunter resigned in 1868, and Rev. Charles Thayer was pastor for six years; then Rev. J. H. McLane two years; the present pastor is Rev. H. C. Cheadle. The Presbyterians established a Sabbath School in 1865, and have since that time had a live school; A. Thompson was superintendent for many years. The present superintendent is M. G. Waren.

The Universalists organized a church in October 1865. Rev. Moses Goodrich preached two years; then Rev. A. B. Hall about one year. When the railroad was built through the county many of the members moved on to the line of the railroad and other places, and the society became too small to support a minister, and had not had any meetings for several years.

A German Methodist church was organized in town 119, range 25, in 1870. Their first house of worship was on the south side of Crow river, but in 1878 they built a new house near the northwest corner of section 29, west of Crawford's Lske. The building is a frame, 32 by 40 feet, well finished and costing $1,2000, a part of the members reside in the town of Franklin. The church is strong and prosperous and they have regular services.

The Swede Lutheran church is located in the northwest part of town 119, range 25, that part of the town being settled by Swedes and Norwegians. In 1856, when the government surveys were made, Mr. Christian Ilstrup was with the surveyors and took notice of the good land in this part of the town. After his work was finished, he returned and in 1857, took a claim on the southeast quarter of section 7. His brother, Abraham took a claim adjoining on the east and Simon, another brother took a claim on the north side, in section 6; they were the pioneers in this part of the town. In 1866 and 1867, came Nils Bunstroem, John Hoagland, Nils Anderson, John Johnson, John Carlson, Ole Peterson and many other scandinavians. Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18 are nearly all settled by them. Many bought railroad land, and many homesteads were taken on the even numbered sections. They are nearly all members of the Lutheran church, which is located on the northeast corner of section 7, a frame building

45 by 35 feet, built in 1870. The congregation is very large and they have services every Sabbath.

The Good Templars have had several organizations, but none of them very substantial or lasting. Woodard Lodge I. O. of G. T. was organized in October 1860, and continued about two years. Rockford Lodge was organized in July 1866, and kept up until 1870. Myrtle Lodge was instituted January 3, 1875, and died in November 1878. Another lodge was instituted in 1880, but was short lived.

Star of the West, Grange No. 6, P. of H. was instituted the 13th day of January, 1869, and had a large membership, but it was not substantial and went into a decline and closed up business in March 1871. Was reorganized in July 1873, and became a prosperous society, but finally sold out the property and closed up its affairs in December 1880. Farmers' societies and temperance societies do not flourish in this town.

Star Lodge No. 62, A. F. & A. M. was instituted in November 1866, and worked under dispensation until December 30, 1867. The first officers under the charter were E. N. McGary, W. M.; J.H. Aker, S. W. ; D. W. Guptil, J. W.; J. R. Ames, Secretary; O. H. Bushnell, Treasurer; F. B. Angell, S. D. ; C. H. Jenks, J. D. ; F. M. Jenks, Tyler. The lodge owns a building on bridge street, 22 by 30 feet, two stories; they have a good hall in the upper story, the lower story is used as a general store by B. E. Bushnell. They have built good stables on the back end of the lot for the accommodation of those living out of the village. The lodge is in a prosperous condition.

Elmwood Cemetery Association; This association was formed in 1864. The first annual meeting was held March 21, 1864, and the first board of trustees were John Woodard, president; D. R. Farnham, secretary; Isaac P. Harvey, treasurer. The association purchased one acre of land

and had a picket fence put up around it that year, at a cost of $65.00 besides clearing the land, and the ground was laid out into 72 lots; the price was $5.00 per lot. The lots were one rod square, and streets one rod wide. Nearly all of the lots were sold to citizens of Rockford and Greenwood. In 1877, another acre of land was purchased adjoining, and laid out into the same number of lots, making 144 in all, and the whole was enclosed with a substantial picket fence costing about $125. The grounds have always been well kept, in good order, and Elmwood is the best looking burying ground in the county, and contains some of the most costly monuments and the largest amount of marble to be found in any village in the state, or outside of the large cities. About 100 of the lots are sold.

VILLAGE

Messrs. Ames, Florida and George had the village surveyed and platted in the spring of 1857, by Gorham P. Gould; about 150 acres was laid out into lots in the NE$\frac{1}{4}$ of section 29, township 119, range 24, and 7 acres in the SE$\frac{1}{4}$, and about 20 acres in the NW$\frac{1}{4}$ of the same section. Although this was the time of townsite and village lot speculation, the proprietors never put their townsite property into the market. A few lots were given to the first settlers, and but very few, not more than five or six, were sold, except to those who would build on them. There never have been lots sold to speculators or to non-residents. In 1866 and 1867, there were more improvements made and buildings put up than in any other year. But about this time the St. P. M. Y M. R.R. was built through the county. Delano sprung into being and other villages were born, and trade and business changed onto the line of the railroad, and for several years not much progress was made at the village of Rockford.

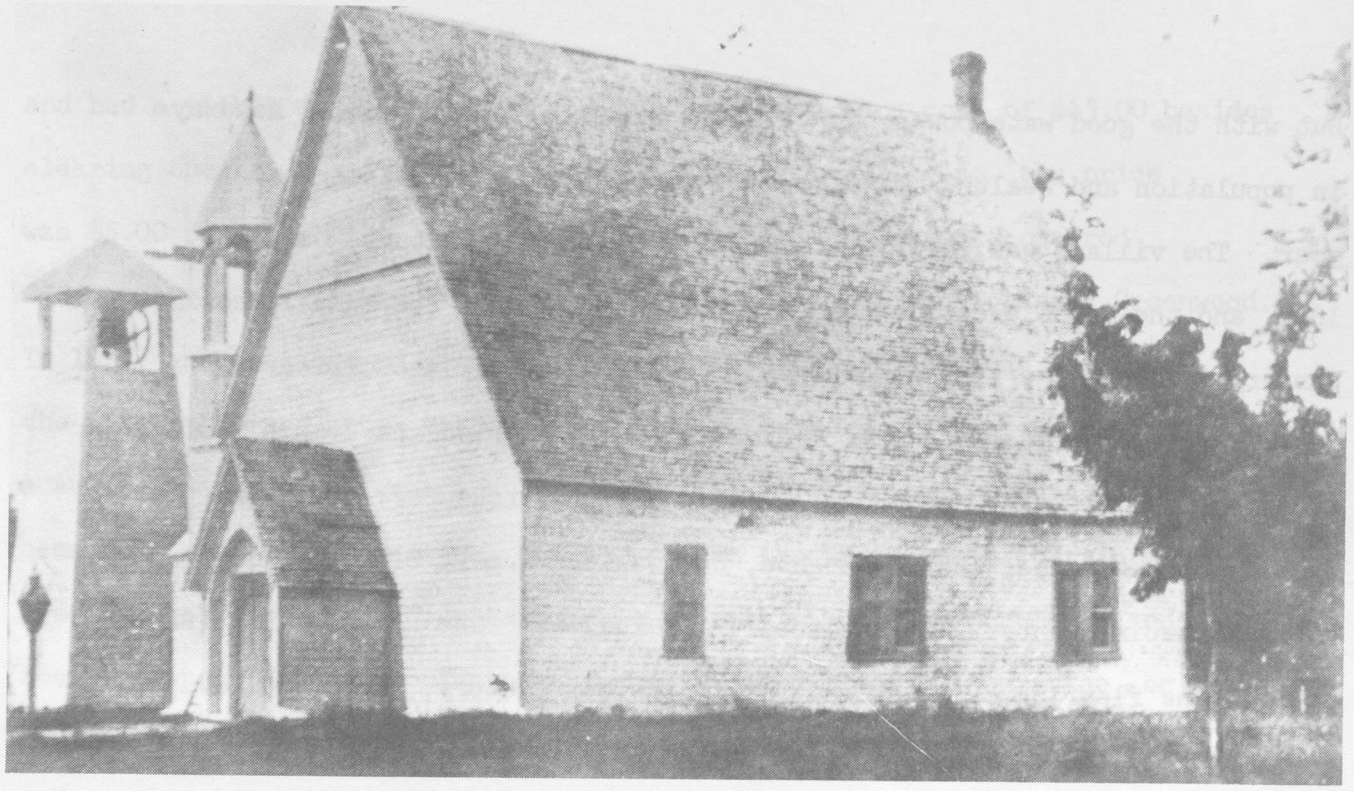
But with the good waterpower, the village is making a substantial headway in population and wealth. Manufactures and trade are increasing each year. The village was incorporated by act of the legislature, Oct. 21, 1881, and the first election held December 6, 1881. At the annual meeting, January 2, 1882, the following persons were elected village officers: W. W. Parker, president; W. C. Proudlock, G. W. Florida and Joseph Thomas, trustees; J. H. Smart, recorder; Samuel Heslar, treasurer; D. R. Farnham, justice of the peace; Herman Bugbee, constable. A part of the village is in Hennepin county. The business is as follows: One woolen mill, (water-power), one flouring mill, one saw mill, one box factory, one stave mill, (steam power) three general stores, one grocery store, one drug store, one shoe shop, one paint shop, two blacksmith shops, one harness hsop, one wagon and repair shop, one hotel, one saloon, one school house, two churches, and forty-three dwelling houses.

STATISTICS

The agricultural reports of 1880 show that in the town of Rockford there were: 1,675 acres of wheat, 384 acres of oats, 1,691 acres of corn, 14 acres of barley, 5 acres of rye, 100 acres of potatoes, 3 acres of beans, 31 acres of sugar cane, 175 acres of cultivated hay, 8 acres of hops. Apple trees growing, 3,551; apple trees bearing, 1,340; grape vines bearing, 26; maple syrup, 58 gallons; maple sugar, 7,015 pounds; milch cows, 365; sheep, 1,206; hogs, 353; horses, 209, working cattle, 48; No. of farms, 137; new farms, 6.

POPULATION

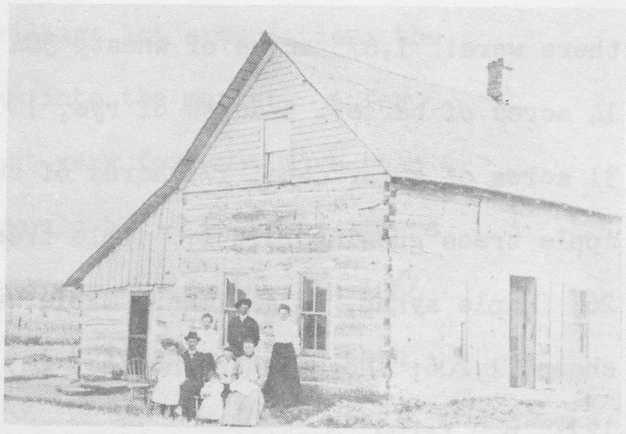
1860 - 437; 1865 - 484; 1870 - 782; 1875 - 794; 1880, including the village, 901; Rockford village, 159.



Rockford Presbyterian Church organized August 22, 1863. D. R. Farnham designed its pews which have reversible backs so that town meetings could be held there with everyone facing the back of the church.



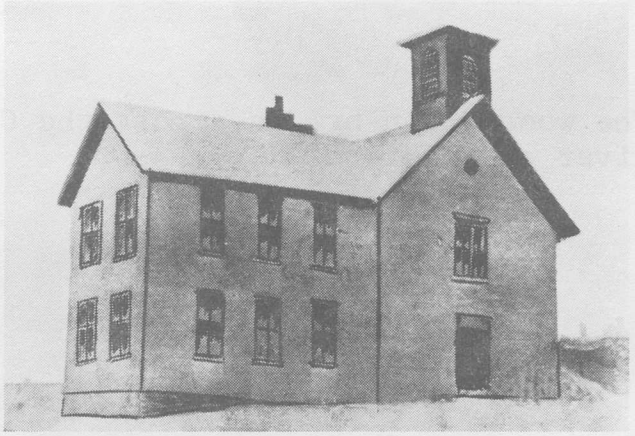
Breck Memorial Chapel in Rockford.



William Peterson log home two miles southeast of Buffalo in Rockford Township.



Benner Store in Rockford.



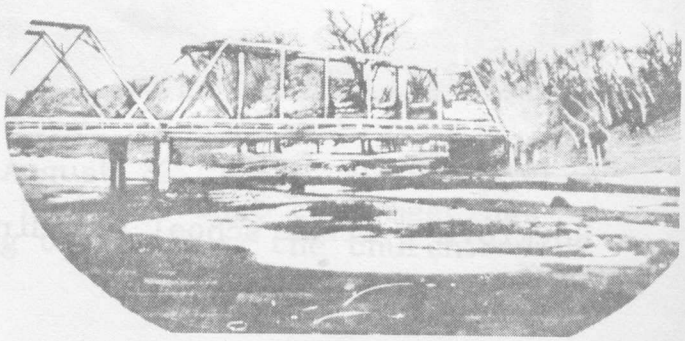
Rockford's first school building.



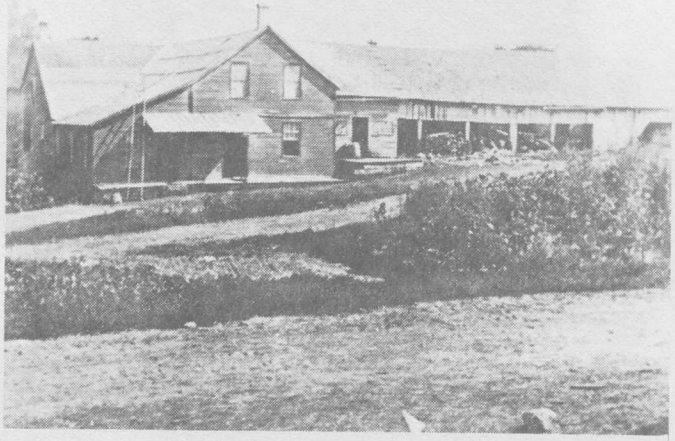
Centennial Hotel in Rockford.



CROW RIVER, FLOOD AND OLD GRIST MILL, ROCKFORD, MINN.



The wood wagon bridge across the Crow River at Rockford.



The Rockford sawmill.

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK

Silver Creek is in the north part of Wright county - the north half of township 121, range 26, the south half of township 122, range 26, and the fractional sections 14, 15, and 16 on the right bank of the Mississippi river. The town is bounded on the north by the Mississippi river, east by Monticello, south by Maple Lake, west by Corrinna and Clearwater. The surface of the town is uneven or rolling, but not hilly. The soil along the Mississippi is sandy, but at a short distance back from the river it is a dark loam and clay subsoil. There is some prairie land along the river, and Thrall's prairie on sections 15 and 20, town 122, and Sauborn's prairie in section 28. Nearly all of the town was originally brush land and timber. The wind storm or hurricane of the 9th of August, 1859, prostrated a large part of the heavy timber, and that is called brush or grub land. The town is watered by many small lakes, and Silver Creek has three branches, one through the center of the town, and one taking its rise in the west part of the town, and one in the east; they are united and empty into the Mississippi in section 15, township 122, range 26. There are 15 lakes covering 2,500 acres. The largest of which are Locke's lake in section 21, Limestone lake in section 31, Millstone lake in sections 17 and 18, Lake Ida in section 12, Eagle lake in sections 14 and 15, and Lake Mary in section 4.

THE FIRST SETTLERS

The first actual settler was Archie Downie, who was connected with

the Winnebago agency at Long Prairie, and looked after the Indians when Wright county was an Indian reservation. He took a claim in section 15, near the mouth of Silver creek in August 1854; was one of the first board of county commissioners in 1855, but sold his claim to A. G. Descent in May 1856, and left the county. John O. Haven was one of the first settlers, and was clerk of the county board of 1855. Joseph S. Locke took his claim in Section 21, the 4th of July 1855, and was about the first permanent settler. Then came Jonah B. Locke, Franklin Wood, Paul Kennedy, Chester Dunklee, Samuel Earle, Henry Ferguson, Rev. Moses Goodrich, George B. Bradbury, James Shaw, W. W. Day, Ambrose Thrall, and others in 1855 and 1856.

FIRST BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DEATH AND SCHOOL

The first child born in the town was Wealthy Ellen Thrall, daughter of Ambrose and Jeanette Thrall, born November 5, 1855. The first male child born was David A. Melrose, son of Thomas Melrose, born Dec. 10, 1855.

The first persons married were A. E. Hulet and L. Jane Thrall, married January 7, 1856, at Monticello. The first marriage celebrated in town was Hiram D. Locke and Anna Hayes, married November 16, 1858, by W. W. Day, Justice of the Peace.

The first death was John Peterson, died March 18, 1856.

The first school was commenced August 1, 1856; the teacher was Jeanette Dunklee. The school was kept in a dwelling house at the townsite of Fremont.

TOWNSITES - FREMONT

The townsite of Fremont was laid out at the mouth of Silver creek, in section 15, township 122, range 26, in April and May 1856; about 100 acres were included in the townsite. The town proprietors were A. G. Descent, George E. H. Day, Samuel Earle and Chester Dunklee. Mr. Dunklee is a native of Vermont, and still owns and occupies a part of the townsite as a farm. Samuel Earle was also from Vermont, and returned to that state in 1857. George E. H. Day resided at St. Anthony and was both lawyer and banker, and during three or four years loaned large amounts of money in Hennepin and Wright counties to preemptors at 3 percent per month. Hundreds of mortgages were foreclosed in 1858 and 1859, during what is called "the hard times". Day and Earle were the heavy moneyed men at Fremont, but agreed in only one thing, and that was to get the best end of all bargains. Fremont had a boom, many lots were sold, but the pretended proprietors never had a title to the land, so the scale of lots was a swindle. A large steam mill was erected at the townsite in February 1856, with a shingle mill, lath and edger. The engine was 60 horse power, and it was in every respect the best mill on the upper Mississippi; but about the time that it was finished the town proprietors fell out and the whole concern went into a long course of litigation, and the mill only ran a short time, and finally went to ruins. Some of the mill and machinery was standing in 1860, but the most of it had been carried off by anybody that wanted it. A store, hotel and blacksmith shop were started, a postoffice established,

A. B. Descent, P. M., but in 1858, all had left except Chester Dunklee, and the town of Fremont was annihilated and known no more. Samuel Earle lost the most money; and no one made much out of Fremont.

ORGANIZATION

On the 9th day of April, 1855, the first board of county commissioners of Wright county, consisting of J. McDonald, Archie Downie and J. D. Taylor divided the county into precincts. The first was named Big Bend, and the present town of Silver Creek was included in that precinct. The dwelling house of Selah Markham was designated as the place of holding the election. John C. Dow, Selah Markham and John Oakes were appointed judges of the election. John C. Dow and Archie Downie were appointed justices of the peace, Oscar Dow and John Lowell were appointed constables. The boundaries of Big Bend precinct were as follows: "on the east by a line running due south from John O. Haven's northwest corner on the Mississippi river to the south line of the county; north by the Mississippi river." A county road was surveyed and laid in July 1855, from Monticello to Eldorado City, near Clearwater, at the mouth of the Clearwater river.

TOWN ORGANIZATION

On the 6th day of April 1858, the board of county commissioners proceeded to divide the county into towns, and the town of Silver Creek was established, embracing the north half of township 121, range 26, and all that part of township 122, range 26, Wright county. In 1862,

sections 7, 8, 17, 18, township 122, range 26, were set off and became part of the town of Clearwater. The first town meeting was held in Silver Creek, May 11, 1858, and the following named persons were elected town officers:

Supervisors - John O. Haven, chairman; Moses Goodrich, James Shaw.

Town Clerk - George B. Bradbury

Justice of the Peace - W. W. Day

GRASSHOPPERS

In 1856 and 1857, Silver Creek was very sadly affected by the grasshopper raid. The north part of the town along the Mississippi was well settled, nearly all of the land was taken by actual settlers, but very few had pre-empted or paid for their lands, and many of them having settled in 1855, had good farms and quite large crops of wheat, oats, corn and potatoes growing when on the 20th of August, 1856, the grasshoppers began their work, and in a few days nothing was left but bare fields. And in the spring of 1857, when the hoppers commenced to eat up everything as soon as it showed itself above ground, many of the first settlers abandoned their claims and left the town never to return. The lands fell into the hands of speculators and the railroad company, and a large part of the land along the Mississippi is still held by speculators and is wild land, and whilst the south part of the town has increased in population and wealth, the north part has remained stationary for many years.

SILVER CREEK IN THE GREAT REBELLION AND INDIAN WAR OF 1862 & '63

In March 1861, before there was any call for soldiers by the government, a military company was organized under the state laws; the company was named the "Silver Creek Rifle Co". Captain W. W. Day, First Lieut., J. N. Fox, Second Lieut. Geo. Brokkins; Third Lieut., J. I. Fisher. The company did considerable drilling, and nearly all of the young men who afterwards enlisted in the U. S. Army from this town, took their first lessons in military tactics in the "Silver Creek Rifles". The company did not go into service in a body, although they offered to go in April when the first call for 75,000 three-months men was made, but they were not accepted, yet nearly every member enlisted. The enlisted soldiers from Silver Creek were:

Nathaniel Drew	Co.	D.	1st	Reg't.
Franklin Devergill	"	"	"	"
C. D. Moline	"	F	2nd	"
Temple Ephriams	"	H	"	"
David Lewis	Co.	I	2nd	Reg't.
Mathew Wardwell	"	"	"	"
C. Mealey	"	A	3rd	"
W. P. Mealey	"	"	"	"
J. N. Fox	"	"	"	"
Salisbury Rowell	"	"	"	"
Isaac Carter	"	"	"	"
Jonas Thomas	"	"	"	"

Harvey S. Brookins	Co.	E	8th	Reg't.
Asel E. Hulet	"	"	"	"
G. W. Carpenter	"	"	"	"
Dexter E. Collins	"	"	"	"
Joseph I. Fisher	"	"	"	"
J. N. Locke	"	"	"	"
Elisha C. Sabin	"	"	"	"
John C. Allen	"	"	"	"

During the Indian scare of 1862, nearly all of the citizens of Silver Creek left their homes; many of them went to Monticello, some to Minneapolis, and for many days the town had no inhabitants. But the first of July, 1863, several Indians were seen in town. Col. J. S. Locke saw six one evening while looking after his cows near Sanborn Prairie. These Indians stole two horses belonging to Henry Ferguson; they were followed by citizens first for many miles, then by the soldiers, to Swede Grove in Meeker county, and the horses were recovered after a fight with the Indians in which Captain Cady of the Eighth Regiment, was killed. Ferguson's old mare carried the marks of one of Cady's bullets across under her jaw until her death. Of course, the fact of Indians being in the town caused a wild stampede, and the town was, for a short time, depopulated and crops of all kinds went to ruin. A few heads of cattle were killed by the Indians, but nobody was hurt by them. The citizens made application to the governor for help, and a squad of Co. "E" of the 8th regiment, commanded by Sergeant John B. Parvin, were sent and made their quarters at Col. J. S. Locke's, where they remained for two months. It was during this time that Christopher Bailey, a member

of the squad, says: "Bailey was sitting in the bushes near the path that led to the spring; he had been home the day before and had in his hand a tin cup full of honey and some cookies which he was eating. Bertram was helping to cook that day and went to the spring for a bucket of water. Coming up the bank he heard a noise and run to the house for his gun, saying he had seen a bear. Several others started to go with him, but Bertram was too quick or impulsive, and went ahead of them all, and when within 30 feet of where he heard the noise, pulled up and fired into the bushes, shooting Bailey through the heart. Bailey gave one cry and fell dead; the bullet cut the front of his right blouse sleeve and the back of the left; he sat on a little knoll when shot. Bailey was a singer of songs, and the murmuring noise that Bertram heard was probably Bailey humming to himself as was his habit. His mouth was full of cookies when shot; he had not an enemy in the company, perhaps not in the world. Mr. Locke says that he saw Bailey but a short time before he was shot and helped bury him, and is well acquainted with all the facts."

CRIMES

The only crime committed in town was the robbing of the town treasury. in August, 1860, C. Denlinger, town treasurer and collector, had collected about $80.00 and claims that two unknown masked men knocked him down, bound and gagged him while alone in his house in the day time, and took the money; at any rate, his wife who had been visiting that afternoon, and W. W. Day and wife found him in that condition, and the money gone. There was no one suspected and no effort made to find the robbers; the town lost the money. The story of the robbery was very generally discredited.

CHURCHES

The Baptists had an organization in 1858, but there is nothing left of it. In 1861, Mr. P. A. Locke of Lexington, Mass., made a donation or bequest to the town of Silver Creek of $500 towards building a church, with the conditions that the church should be built by the town supervisors to cost not less than $1,000. The town accepted the bequest and built the church; it is located on section 5. Another condition was that the church should always be used by the Methodists, and that the trustees of the Methodist church should keep the house in repair, and keep it insured. But the board of trustees have allowed the house to go to wreck and ruin, and do not keep it insured. The names of the present board of trustees are: A. Simmons, A. Anderson and D. Stirwalt. There is really no religious organization in town.

A town hall was built in 1858, costing about $600, and has always been a bone of contention; at present, it is used for dancing parties, lectures, shows and travelling preachers. There has never been a resident lawyer or physician in town, and but one minister, Rev. Moses Goodrich, and he did not preach in Silver Creek.

POST OFFICES

The Silver Creek post office was established in 1856. A.G. Descent, P.M. Soon after, the Bianca post office, Rev. Moses Goodrich, P.M. was established where the present office now is. In 1869, another post office, Ypsilanti, Joseph Brooks, P.M, was established; so there were three post offices in town. The present Silver Creek post office is in section 8, town 121, on the Monticello and Clearwater road, J. N. Locke, P.M.

MILLS

There are several good waterpowers on Silver Creek, but only one improved. J. D. Chubb has a saw mill, capacity about 5,000 feet per day, and many barns, graineries and other buildings are being put up of native hard wood lumber.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The roads through the town are generally well worked. There are roads running in all directions and through every section, and ten bridges over Silver Creek, average length 30 feet. The Minneapolis and Northwestern railroad was built through the town in 1881; there is no regular station, only a flag station. When the citizens can decide on a location, they can have a station, although the town voted against giving a bonus to the railroad company in 1880.

SCHOOLS

There are four school districts in town, and three others partly in this town, two partly in Maple Lake and one in Monticello. Schools are well supported, from four to eight months school in each year. The four districts in town have each a good frame school house.

STATISTICS

The agricultural reports of 1880 show that Silver Creek had: Wheat 873 acres; oats, 162 acres; corn, 401 acres; rye, 6 acres; potatoes, 14 acres; sugar cane, 8 acres; cultivated hay, 53, acres; apple trees growing, 1,427; apple trees bearing, 388; maple syrup, 78 gallons; maple sugar, 134 pounds; milch cows, 309; sheep, 316; hogs, 58; horses, 98; working cattle, 39; farms,

60; new farms, 8.

POPULATION

Census 1860, 240; 1865, 192; 1870, 285; 1875, 363; 1880, 381.

—THE—

WAVERLY MILLS.

C. W. BONNIWELL, Proprietor.

WAVERLY, WRIGHT CO., MINN.

This mill (now with sufficient water power) has been renovated and supplied with modern improvements and is strictly a

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HENRY INWIE,

—DEALER IN—

WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS.

PURE WINES AND LIQUORS KEPT IN STOCK.

Railroad Avenue and River Street, Delano, Minn.

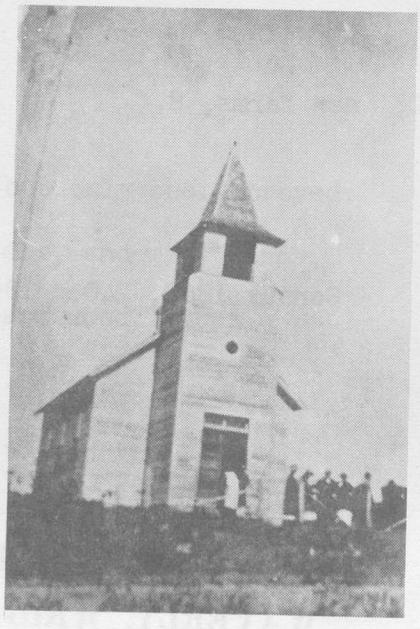
HEADQUARTERS FOR

Hardware, Stoves, Tinware

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, &c.



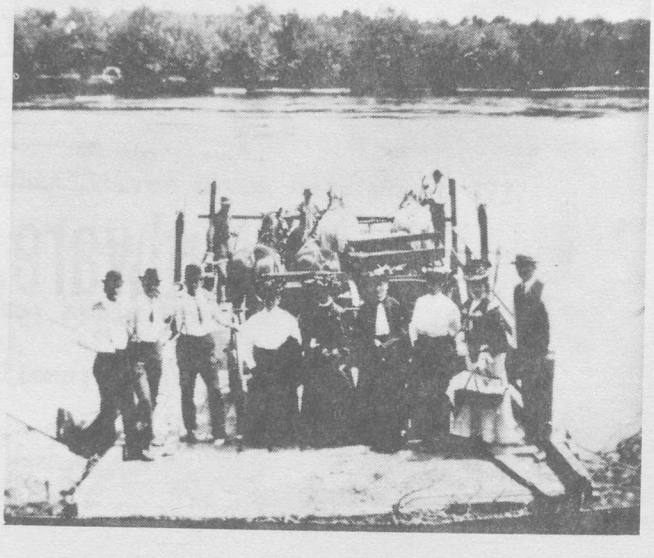
Silver Creek Township homestead.



Silver Creek Lutheran Church.

This ferry crossed the Mississippi River north of Enfield.





COUNTY NEWS

February 22, 1883

The county history manuscript, as also Rockford items, failed to reach us this week. Cause unknown at this office.

COUNTY NEWS

April 19, 1883

County History.-- The publication and completion of the county history is temporarily suspended, for lack of time and inability of the historian to obtain and prepare the matter from the remaining towns-- Southside, Stockholm, Victor and Woodland. It will be taken up and completed in the near future.

CHAS. EPPEL,
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DRY GOODS, GROCERIES,
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Carries the largest stock of goods in town; constantly receiving fresh supplies and can and will give you your money's worth every time as he will not be undersold.
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